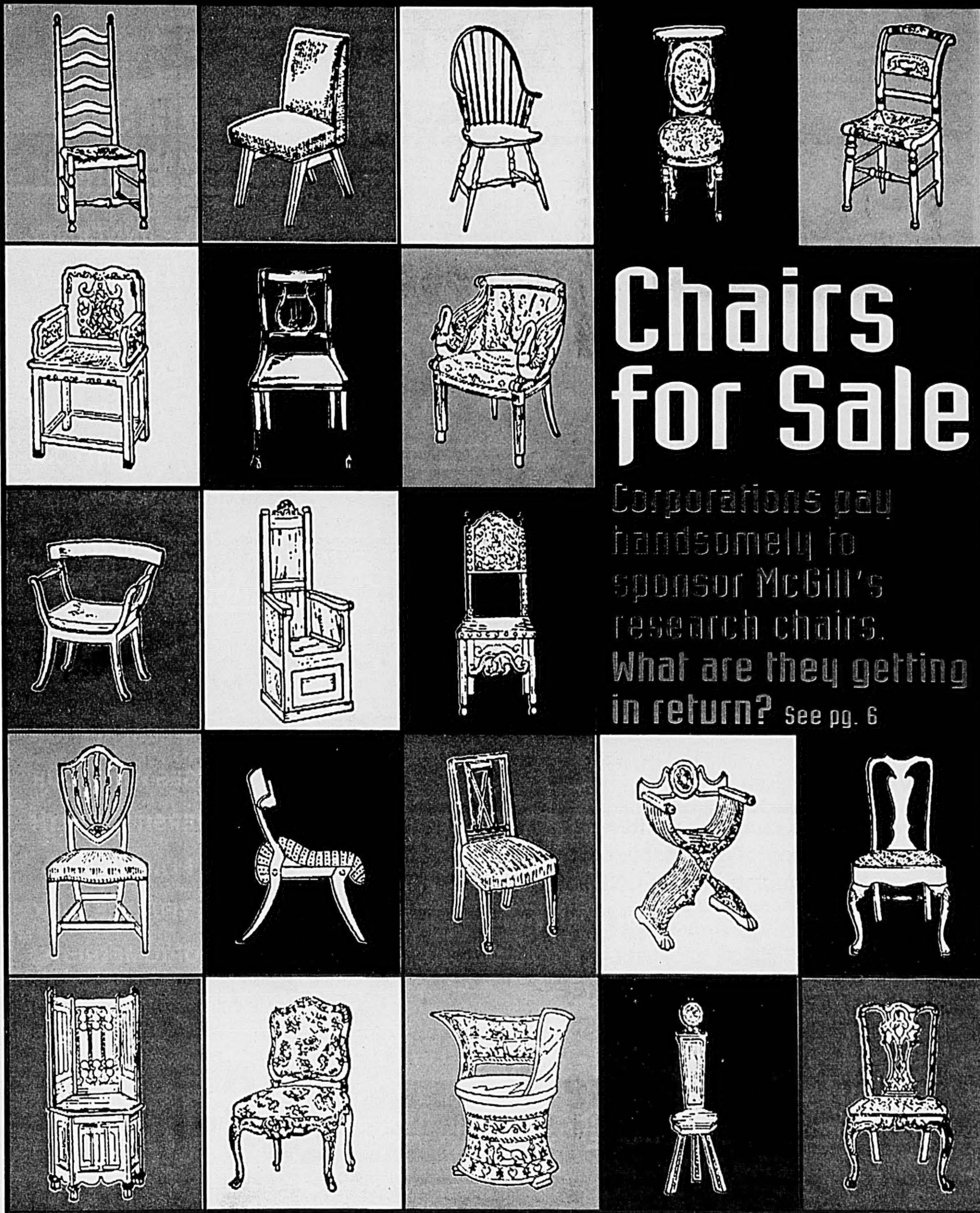


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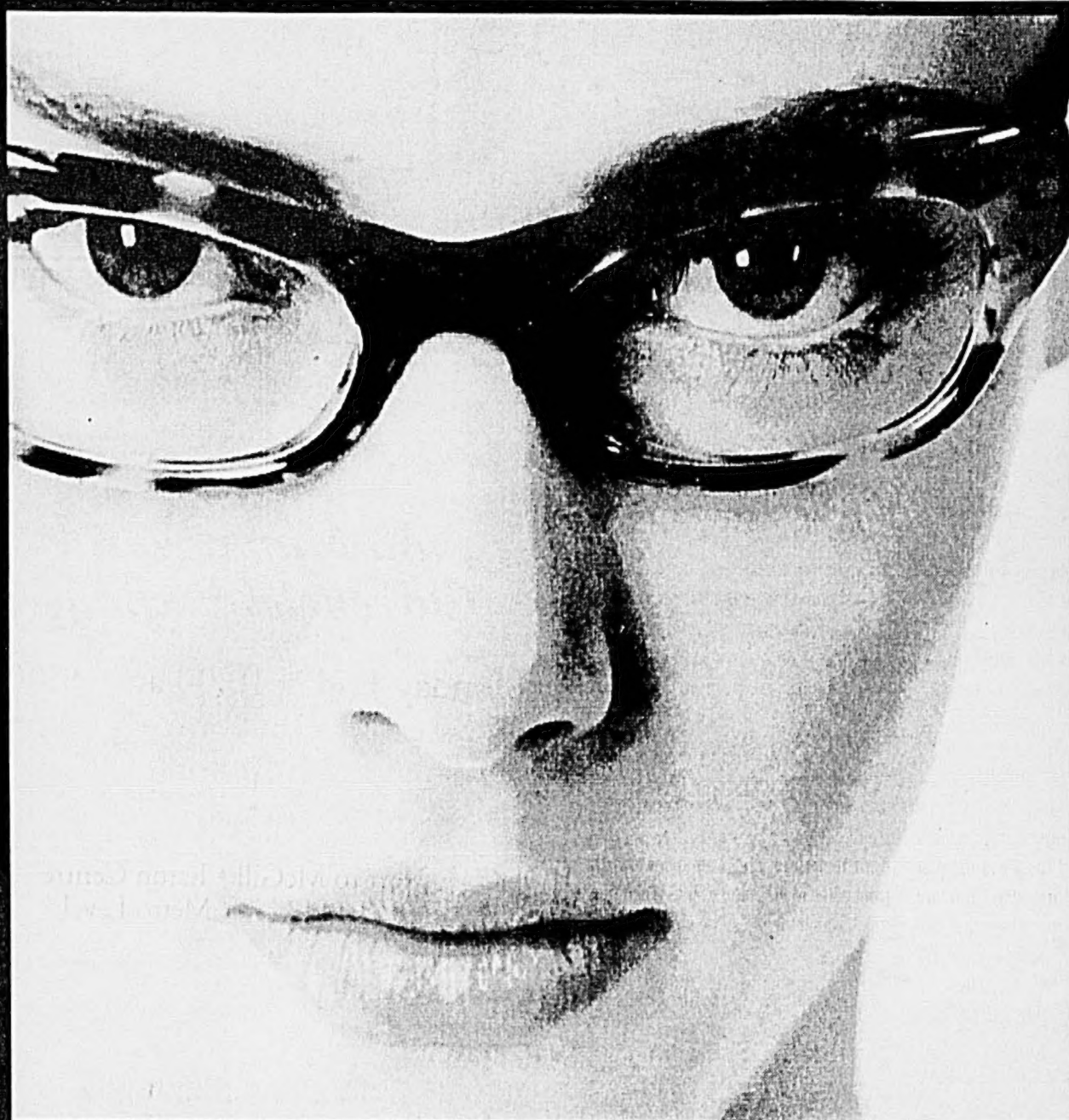
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Sam Goffman

Candidates Debate Environmental Issues

Five parties square off at McGill School of Environment

elections



BY JOSLYN OOSENBURG
News Reporter

Balancing Canada's economic prosperity with environmental sustainability was the underlying theme of last Thursday's debate on the environment. The event, hosted by the McGill School of Environment, was held in Moyse Hall and featured representatives from five of Canada's national political parties.

Debate participants included Clifford Lincoln, Liberal member of parliament for Lac-Saint-Louis; Marilyn Churley a New Democrat and member of provincial parliament in Ontario; Bernard Côté, a candidate for the conservative party in Verdun; Dean Drysdale, Canadian Alliance candidate for Vaudreuil, Québec; and Joan Russow, Green Party candidate, Victoria, B.C. and leader of the Green Party of Canada.

The panel addressed a wide range of issues concerning the status of water as a tradable commodity under the terms of the free trade agreements, the Kyoto protocol and the reduction of greenhouse gases, and the regulation of genetically modified organisms.

The candidates opened the debate with the environmental priorities of their respective platforms, and by outlining policies that they felt would distinguish their party from the others in terms of the environment.

"Environment and sustainable development are really a question of fairness and equity," said Liberal Clifford Lincoln. Lincoln outlined a number of environmental initiatives which the Liberals have jumpstarted over the last seven years, and insisted that the Liberal government has taken environmental issues seriously.

"I can assure you that in the Liberal party, many of us try, and try very hard," he said.

But NDPer Marilyn Churley argued that the Liberals weren't trying hard enough. "What we have seen is a real lack of environmental commitment in the Liberal government," she said.

While she admitted that the Liberals were going to win the election, she made it clear that New Democrats elected to Parliament would fight for the environment.

"We have the capacity to put people in the house of commons and hold the Liberals to their promises as well as make them implement some of our recommendations," Churley added.

Green Party president Jean Russow emphasized the importance of environmental issues, and challenged other parties to put environmental issues on their agendas. She accused the Liberals of having a conflict of interest in their stance on the environment - she pointed out that the Liberals have accepted money in the past from the fossil fuel industry. "You are [indebted] to the corporations that are causing the problems. How can we expect you to do anything?" She added however that average citizens also have to work towards a more sustainable lifestyle. "We've got to recognize that citizens are part of the problem."

Canadian Alliance hopeful Dean Drysdale made vague remarks about his party's views on the environment, but he emphasized that he was hopeful that environmental problems could be fixed.

"There have been many problems that seemed insurmountable at the time, like the oil shortage, like inflation, but we've licked those," he said. "And if we all work together I'm sure we can save our environment as we can look back in nostalgia on the days when it was in doubt."

Candidates continuously attacked each others' platforms throughout the debate, and there was no clear winner. Much of the time the fray involved only the Liberal, NDP, and Green Party candidates, but an occasional jab was thrown at the Alliance member, who took it in good humour. The feeling of the Green Party's Joan Russow was that attacks on the extreme right party were not necessary, as the weakness of their platform on the environment was "obvious."

Jay Ploss, a U3 Environment student and

panelist for the debate, felt that there were two features common to all the platforms: a focus on recent publicized events, such as the tragedy in Walkerton, and a focus on global issues which affect Canada's international image, such as climate change.

Ploss was critical of this approach to questions about the environment. "I consider the environment to be a much bigger problem than individual issues," she said.

Ploss points out that environmental problems are threatening human's basic existence, and that structural change needs to be undertaken in order to solve these problems. "I think it comes down to some basic premises: the Earth is suffering; the Earth is suffering as a result of what we're doing; and we're doing what we're doing faster and faster," she said.

At one point at the event, a number of students with tape over their mouths rose from their seats and walked towards the front of the room holding signs. Their messages, which included "we are sick of your 'promises'" and "we want dialogue, not rhetoric," criticized both the political parties and the debate format itself. The students stood in front of the stage, making their message clear to all debate participants before turning to face the audience.

"I personally thought that [the debate] illustrated the absurdity of our democratic system," said Christie Young, a U3 Environment student. "The reason that we had tape over our mouths was to demonstrate the fact that we don't have spaces to have our voices heard or make decisions."

The debate was organized in response to the negligible attention being given to the environment during this federal election campaign, despite the importance these issues hold for many Canadians.

"Although these issues are not being discussed too much during this election, they're a very considerable concern to the public and to youth," said Peter Brown, director of the McGill School of the Environment and panel member for the debate. "The failure to address these issues is turning off younger people from the process, which is very worrisome development, both from the point of view of the environment, and from the point of view of democracy."

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Marijuana Party High on Politics

Montreal-based pot activist party's campaign making noise in federal election

elections



BY IAN MCKELLAR
The McGill Daily

McGill students disenchanted with the Liberals need no longer waste their votes on the Canadian Action Party or the Christian Heritage Party of Canada. That's because the Marijuana Party of Canada has finally made its grand entrance onto the national scene.

Representing the silent majority of pot-smoking Canadians, the party is running on the single issue of "ending the marijuana prohibition," according to party leader Marc-Boris St-Maurice.

The Montreal-area musician formed the party, originally named Bloc Pot, to compete in the Quebec provincial election of 1998. St-Maurice says that popular demand encouraged him to take the party to a national stage and vie for federal office when Prime Minister Jean

Chrétien announced an election last month.

"The fact that we have 73 candidates running across the country shows that the root cause of interest is out there," said St-Maurice.

St-Maurice said he hopes to use the fringe party outlet to raise public awareness concerning what he sees as unjustified and unnecessary criminal laws concerning marijuana possession. "Votes are the tool that will provide leverage and give us a voice in the debate," he said. "Ten-thousand voters gave us a mandate to fight for this cause [in the last provincial election]."

For St-Maurice, who is running in the

Montreal riding of Laurier Sainte-Marie, one goal is to create public awareness in part through the party's website (www.marijuanaparty.org).

The site contains the party's platform, a solicitation for donations, and St-Maurice's own pro-marijuana manifesto.

In it, he cites the case of the pro-marijuana ALC Party of New Zealand, which he claims brought the marijuana issue to the forefront of that country's agenda. St-Maurice hopes to replicate that phenomenon in Canada.

"Personally, I am voting for the Marijuana Party," says Allen Mendelsohn, head of the Law

brought to the media, the better off it is for those of us fighting for decriminalization," said Mendelsohn explaining his belief in raising issues like decriminalization

during an election. To him, the Marijuana Party represents a "unique way to make the issue a topic of discussion."

Mendelsohn feels that there is a substantial public interest, particularly among students, on the issue of marijuana decriminalization.

"In the last couple of years, these things have been discussed more openly," he says. To capitalize on this interest, Mendelsohn hopes to organize a conference in the spring of 2001 at McGill on the subject of marijuana decriminalization, bringing together academics with representatives of government and police.

Indeed, both the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs and the Canadian Bar Association have backed the decriminalization of marijuana possession in recent years, and a Canada-wide survey conducted by the National Post in 1999 reports that almost two-thirds of those polled supported some form of decriminalization.

St-Maurice sees in this a certain groundswell of public support, but he wants to take it one step further – ideally, to force the federal government to take immediate action on the issue.

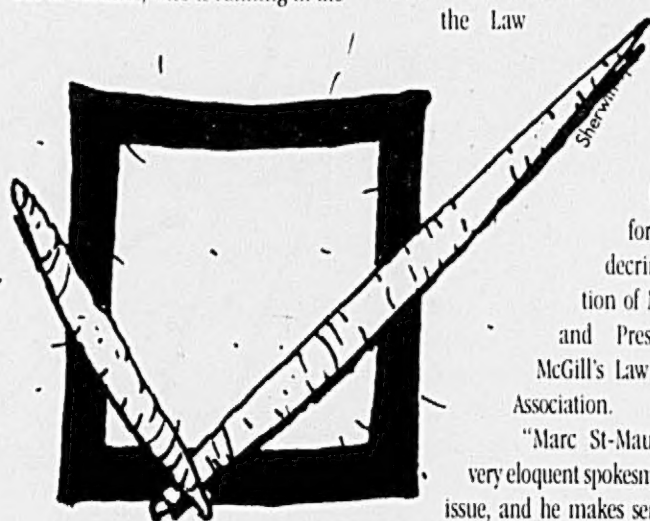
"We will continue our fight until the marijuana issue is settled," he says. As for a change in the national marijuana laws? "We want it now."

Currently, under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and the related Narcotic Control Regulations, Minister of Health Allan Rock has the power to exempt medical marijuana users and providers from persecution. He also deems who in Canada has the right to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Recent polls support St-Maurice's belief that Canadians would like to see the law repealed. In a 1998 census by Statistics Canada, 72 per cent of Canadians said that marijuana should definitely be legalized for medical purposes, using cancer and the drug's ability to help patients cope with pain as the primary reasoning for change. Also, 20 per cent of Canadians believed marijuana should be legalized altogether.

Other major political parties in Canada show some support for the cause. A resounding 83 per cent of New Democrat Party voters are in favour of the decriminalization of marijuana, however only 37 per cent of Liberal voters are in favour of its decriminalization.

*-With files from Darren Stewart,
Ottawa Bureau Chief*



Students for the decriminalization of Marijuana and President of McGill's Law Students' Association.

"Marc St-Maurice is a very eloquent spokesman for the issue, and he makes sense of the debate."

"The more ways it is discussed and

Residences Becoming Targets for Unsolicited Advertising

Students say they're fed up with aggressive marketing that hits them where they live

BY OMAR SACHEDINA
News Reporter

Students living in McGill's upper residences say they are becoming increasingly irritated over an aggressive leafletting campaign being carried out by Montreal area restaurants and nightclubs.

According to those living in the Bishop Mountain Residences, promoters and their representatives, who are normally first-year students living in residence, are soliciting room-to-room by sliding postcard-size ads under students' doors.

And while residence policy states that no unsolicited ads are permitted, more and more companies seem to be trying to take advantage of the captive student audience.

Flo Tracy, director of McGill's residences, said she would like to see an end to that sort of marketing. She said that the 900 students living in upper residence are a prime target promoters, which is why they are often used unfairly as a means to attract business.

"This type of advertising is certainly

unsolicited and unwanted because it can be offensive and environmentally very unfriendly."

She also said that leafletting seems even more annoying when you consider that residences are where students live.

"Who would do that in a person's home? And the residences are the students' home. [Unsolicited advertising] is not allowed under our policy," said Tracy.

The problem is, she said, that leafletting is virtually impossible to monitor.

In order to enforce residence policy, Tracy said she occasionally calls the promoters, but mostly relies on students and staff to control the issue – what she calls a "personal responsibility."

But Becky Gluskin, Vice-President of Gardner Hall's residence council, feels that more should be done.

"It's annoying. It's garbage. If I really wanted to seek out these clubs and bars, I'd seek them out. I'm not waiting for people to leave pamphlets under my door telling me what to do on Saturday night."

She also pointed to a security risk that

comes with having marketers moving in and out of residences.

"If strangers are walking through our halls without permission, then that's kind of sketchy. I don't want random people off the street just putting pamphlets under our doors. Who knows what could happen," said Gluskin.

But the marketers claim that, in upper-residence in particular, students often feel isolated and that promoting parties and events is one way of keeping students abreast of McGill's social scene.

"I'm advertising because I want people to know about my events and come to them, and I find that the residence population is a big part of my campaign," said Sam Khullar, a well-known Montreal-area promoter and President of Sugar Sammy Productions.

Khullar said, however, that the residence policy against promotions like his,

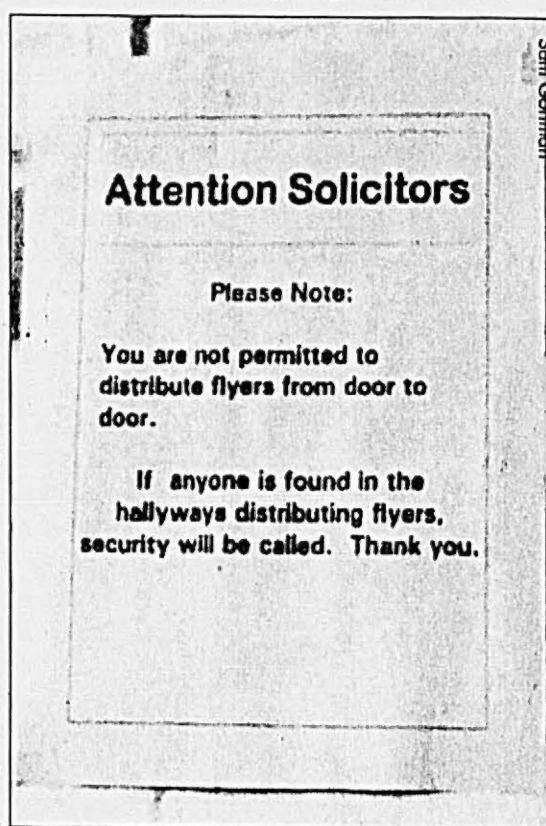
has made his job more difficult.

"This year, it's getting tougher to reach the residence population, just because of the stricter regulations. They tear down every poster, that's one thing. They don't allow my flyer team to flyer anymore, and it seems like they've hired tyrants to scare away my flyer team."

"One time, I was getting ready to put up a poster, and a kid came up to me, and ripped the poster out of my hands, and said something like 'I'm the head of this residence – you can't put this up without a stamp.' I think it's a little extreme to have watchdogs there all the time. I don't know who's training these people."

But Tracy said aggressive advertising is not necessary and she doesn't buy the promoters claim that the goal is simply to inform residence students of goings-on.

"I've never seen anyone of my residence students behind the eight ball not knowing what's going, and word spreads like wildfire in residence anyway, so I don't see it as a need to inform at all," she said.



Residence staff try to combat onslaught of unwelcome flyers

Bringing a Corporate Seat to Universities' Tables

As endowed chairs increase in number, critics say there is cause to fear unwelcome influence

BY ALEX HALPERIN
News Reporter

Awarding a professor with an endowed chair has long been a way for universities to honour their most esteemed academics. But as Canadian universities search high and low for new ways to fill gaps left by public funding cuts, chairs are increasingly being looked to as sources of revenue, and critics fear they are giving private donors a stake in setting universities' agendas.

Here's how it works: Donors — usually wealthy individuals or corporations — pick a school that is deserving of their philanthropy, choose an area of academic interest, and make a financial gift to endow a chair. Provided that academic area is one that the university would like to develop, a board of faculty members is assembled to determine who will fit the position and decide whether to take the donor's money to establish a chair.

With the scaling back of investment in education by both the federal and provincial governments and tuition frozen here in Quebec, schools like McGill must look to all sorts of new ways to increase revenue, and endowed chairs are on the rise. That practice, however, has raised questions about the influence of corporate interests in academia.

Michael Conlon, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, said he has many concerns about the trend towards increased numbers of endowed chairs.

"They point to the larger problem which is generally the underfunding of colleges and universities in Canada," he said. "The biggest problem with these models is

that they allow private businesses to direct the research and curriculum of a university, all for a fairly small cost."

He said his concerns are particularly justified at a school like McGill where donors are given an unofficial voice the selection of a chair's recipient.

But McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro defended the process of establishing a chair and naming a recipient. He insists that, while the university is desperately cash-strapped, McGill is always mindful of donations with strings attached.

"Very frequently donors would like to have a say," Shapiro said. "We will allow a donor to provide input. We're glad to hear that, as we would be glad to hear that from anybody. But we're very particular about not allowing the people who give the money to decide who gets the chair."

Shapiro said that McGill recently raised the price of endowing a chair to \$2 million up from \$1.5 million. Interest generated by the endowment pays a portion of the salary of the professor who receives the chair, while the rest goes into the university's budget, he explained. Professors recruited internally for chairs do not get salary raises at McGill, though on a few occasions they can glean some of the interest for their research as happened recently with Morton Weinfeld, McGill's Chair in Canadian Ethnic Studies.

"A chair for us is a source of revenue," said Principal Shapiro. Because of the financial boon endowed chairs provide, Shapiro expressed his wish for McGill to acquire endowed chairs in as many established departments as possible. He also pointed to the recently announced Beaverbrook Chair in Ethics, Media and

Communications, named for Lord Beaverbrook, the one-time magnate of the Canadian newspaper business, as an example of a chair that presents an opportunity for McGill to branch into a new field. Shapiro said that without a donation from the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation, the university never would have been able to give any academic a concentrated focus on media ethics issues.

Despite the benefits listed by Shapiro however, many university insiders still view endowed chairs with skepticism.

David Robinson, policy director for the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says there is virtually no such thing as a chair that does not bring unwanted donor influence.

By simply choosing what university department will receive a chair, corporate donors exert some influence on the setting of universities' academic priorities. What's worse, Robinson says, this means that business schools and research-intensive departments usually benefit more than others from chairs paid for by corporate donors.

"Even if the people who put up the money don't have a direct say in who's hired, the more basic issue is that they do have complete say over what the endowed chair is, in terms of what its function is and what sort of research it will undertake," said Robinson. "[Corporate donors] create the framework in which the endowed chair operates."

Conlon agrees. "I know that most of them come allegedly with no strings attached," he said. "But at the end of the day it's our feeling that most of them do have strings attached whether they're stated or not."

Robinson and Conlon both pointed to Joseph Rotman's \$15-million donation to University of Toronto in 1997. The donation went towards the construction of the Rotman School of Business and a number of chairs, including one named for Rotman. According to Robinson and Conlon, that was a case of a university letting a donor make a contribution that overstepped acceptable bounds. Conlon believes the deal gives Rotman, Chairman and CEO of Clairvest and one-time director of the C.D. Howe Institute, a say in the curriculum of the management faculty.

But while the university has persistently denied that Rotman can influence curriculum or revoke funding if he does not approve of how his money is being spent, Robinson said the problem at U of T runs far deeper.

"We hear about more and more of them all the time," said Robinson. He pointed to a campaign to attract more chairs to U of T that began in 1997 after a round of major public sector cuts. Since the campaign began, Robinson said, U of T has gone from having 15 endowed chairs to over 100. Among the new chairs are a Bell Canada Chair in Multimedia Studies, a Newcourt Chair in Structured Finance, a Nortel Instituted Chair in Emerging



Sherwin Tjia

Do endowed chairs give donors the power to control the university's curriculum?

Technology, and a Toronto Stock Exchange Chair in Research Capital.

McGill's list is nearly as impressive. Among the endowed chairs named for major donors, the John Cleghorn Chair in Management Studies, named for the Chair and CEO of Royal Bank, the Samuel Bronfman Chair in Management Science, named for the former head of Canada's homegrown Seagram's empire, and the Tomlinson Chair in Chemistry, named for Richard Tomlinson who set a private-contribution record with his \$64-million donation to McGill this summer.

In an announcement that seemed positive at first glance, the federal government announced in its most recent annual budget that it would fund the establishment of 2,000 academic research chairs across Canada. It was quickly learned, however, that because most of the chairs would go to scientific programs at Canada's largest research universities — McGill, The University of Toronto, and The University of British Columbia — smaller schools and arts departments at the larger schools would miss out.

Nonetheless, Shapiro said he is rather excited about the federal chairs McGill will receive, and the university has already begun recruiting externally for the first seven. "We got 160 chairs because we were very successful in the search competition

for federal funds," said Shapiro. This is based partly on McGill's past record of using federal funding in the prioritized fields, in addition to reviews of the school's past research performance.

Shapiro also said that McGill does plan to compensate for the federal research chairs' emphasis on science by using the university's existing endowment, now worth close to \$1-billion, to sponsor James McGill chairs, which will primarily benefit the social sciences and humanities. Shapiro said he sees this as a way of retaining and honouring the school's most talented professors in the Faculty of Arts.

Critics, however, are less confident than Shapiro that strong Arts programs can be maintained. They remain wary of the federal chairs, and believe that arts departments will never receive as many chair endowments as business or science programs and that the university will not follow through on its intention to maintain an equilibrium between the faculties. Furthermore, it is a prevalent concern that the research taking place within the field of science will be less general in nature and more oriented towards the goals of industry.

"Government and business are colluding to really steer the university into a kind of industrial workshop rather than a place where a wide range of research and teaching can be undertaken," said Robinson.



McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro: "A chair for us is a source of revenue."

India, Pakistan State Their Case

Canadian High Commissioners from feuding South Asian nations square off in Montreal

BY SEAN CARRIE
News Reporter

The years-long political feud between India and Pakistan came to Montreal on Friday.

The High Commissioners to Canada from India and Pakistan took part in a debate organized as part of the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium being hosted at McGill this week. Friday afternoon's event gave high school students from across North America a crash-course in the difficulties inherent in resolving international conflicts.

Their Excellencies Tariq Atlas of Pakistan and Rajnikant Varmar of India made it immediately apparent that the gulf separating their two states represents a considerable challenge to those involved in resolving South Asian discord.

Varmar set the stage by quoting Indira Gandhi. "We want to shake hands with Pakistan, but unfortunately, one cannot shake hands with a clenched fist," he said. "We fervently desire friendly, good-natured relations with them. Unfortunately, our good will has not been reciprocated."

Atlas expressed a remarkably similar sentiment, saying, "Pakistan has tried all approaches to achieve a breakthrough in relations with India," he said. "Nothing has worked. Bilaterally, India has refused to listen to us."

Both sides held a deep-seated belief that the other was entirely to blame for continued hostility. Each had a different explanation for the other's position.

Varmar explained what he thought was Pakistan's inability to negotiate in good faith. "The explanation for the seemingly irrational hostility of Pakistan towards India," Varmar rationalized, "appears to be rooted in Pakistan's domestic composition and the nature of the Pakistani state. Being a theocratic, dysfunctional state under military dictatorship, Pakistan senses a threat to its identity from India, which is a modern, secular state where parliamentary democracy has become well-established."

Atlas cited what the United Nations Security Council has identified as the cause of poor Indo-Pakistani relations. Security Council resolutions, he said, "ordained that the version of accession of the state of Kashmir to Pakistan or India would be decided through a fair and free plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations." India, however, has totally disregarded this resolution, according to Atlas.

Things remained tense as debate shifted towards the subject of Kashmir, the disputed region over which India and Pakistan have fought with one another.

"We are seeing the implementation of the principle of 'might is right,' as a matter

of double-standards by those who are champions of human rights, but ignore the Kashmiri plight so as not to offend India, which is, for them, a large economic market," said Atlas.

With the partition and de-colonization of British India, he said, "the Kashmiris were promised the right of self-determination by India, by Pakistan, and the United Nations. For half a century now, the

kinds of things, as to make a fair self-determination impossible. They did not give them the right to say that 'we want to be an independent state.'"

"It is clear that Kashmir is an integral part of India, and Pakistan must withdraw from the territory which it has illegally occupied," he maintained. "No country can be expected to hand over a part of its territory to another at the price of improv-

ing its relations with the latter."

Both diplomats agreed, however, that the emergence of the nuclear card in South Asian politics must not be seen as a viable solution to the hostilities.

"We do not see the development of nuclear weapons really making any change in our policy towards Pakistan," declared

Varmar. "So far as we are concerned, it is a deterrent, which means that we cannot be blackmailed, we cannot be pressurized by somebody who's got nuclear weapons."

"Nuclearisation in South Asia has given a new urgency to [the issue]," agreed Atlas.

On the subject of how the core dispute might ultimately be resolved, both agreed that subversive acts carried out in the other's nation should be stopped, but the

two were again at odds over how a decision should be reached.

Atlas said he believes that the intervention of an international body such as the UN will be instrumental in resolving the dispute and ensuring Kashmiri's self-determination.

"There is absolutely no room for denying this role to the United Nations which is inherent to its charter and to its existence," Atlas said.

"The only real solution is direct bilateral talks," replied Varmar. "We feel that in all these tiny positions, relations between the two countries improve gradually. Progressively, they reach a point where the more difficult differences can get resolved."

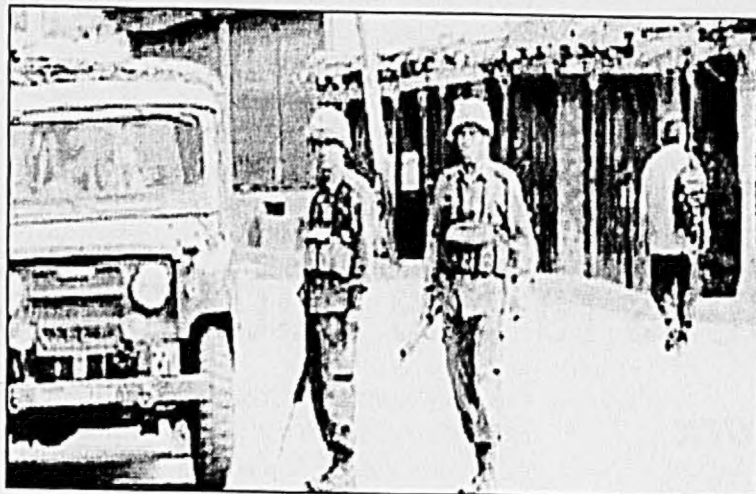
Varmar cited this approach as the method by which India is making "a lot of progress" in resolving its territorial differences with China.

Students in attendance said they were both impressed and overwhelmed by the debate and the opportunity to learn about the issues at play in the ongoing dispute between India and Pakistan.

Michael Boag, UNSAM member and Director of Public Relations for the SSUNS Secretariat, said that he was very pleased with the proceedings.

Boag said that he believed the diplomats' debate would prove worthy fodder for intelligent discussion among the students. "I thought it was wonderful. It was a lot more controversial than I expected, a lot more really different sides of the argument were presented," he said.

"I think it really showed delegates how difficult all this really is."



Indian soldiers patrol the streets in Srinagar, Kashmir

Kashmiris have struggled for the fulfillment of these commitments."

For his part, Varmar questioned Pakistan's viewpoint towards Kashmir. "If Pakistan really cared for self-determination in Kashmir, then it would give the people of Kashmir the right to determine their own future."

Pakistanis, Varmar continued, "have infiltrated so many people [with] propaganda, infiltration, appeal to religion, all

Orchestrating Peace in Northern Ireland

Canadian General De Chastelain speaks about Irish disarmament at Model UN opening

BY JON WOODSIDE
News Reporter

Secondary school students from across the country got a valuable lesson in diplomacy on Thursday night at the opening ceremonies of the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium hosted at McGill.

Nearly 600 high school students were in attendance to kick-off the three-day conference that began with a keynote speech from Canadian General John de Chastelain at downtown Montreal's International Civil Aviation Organization.

One of three men in charge of negotiating disarmament strategies with paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, de Chastelain is widely considered to be among the most important Canadians on the international scene today.

De Chastelain briefly described the historical roots of the conflict in Northern Ireland, before addressing the more recent problems of the last thirty years.

In looking at the latest developments in the talks between the Protestants and

Catholics, he pointed to the realization that the Irish nationalists arrived at when they signed the ceasefire in 1994.

"There is no winning in this war, no one will be defeated and it was clearly time to give politics a chance," he said.

As De Chastelain continued his speech, he made it clear that for the political process to work, a principle of trust must be adhered to.

He emphasized this idea as he ran through the struggles that have plagued his commission in pushing toward the disarmament of the IRA and the Unionist para-military groups. The question comes down to a simple disagreement in procedure according to De Chastelain.

"The Unionists want disarming to take place before negotiations and the new Northern Irish assembly begins," he said. "But Nationalists want to keep arms until certain issues are sorted out."

The IRA wants to see the police force of Northern Ireland reformed and the British army ousted out of the province, if the IRA is to relinquish its weapons, de Chastelain explained. The Northern Ireland Unionists

meanwhile, fear that the delay would make it too vulnerable. In the end, neither side wants to put its guns down first, which is why De Chastelain feels so strongly that his commission "must address trust-building," before it can make any headway with disarmament.

While the reconciliation looks difficult, de Chastelain did make mention of several positive developments. In the fall of 1998 one of the Unionist parties decommissioned part of its arsenal giving what de Chastelain called a "spark of hope."

Furthermore, since the IRA has indicated that it will return to the negotiating table, it has submitted to limited arms inspections in order to help build confidence, he said.

While a model UN symposium may not actually produce any tangible results outside the conference's walls, the organizers said after Thursday's event that they are confident that the students will remember hearing speakers like Chastelain and will use lessons learned during the conference in the years to come.

"We are here to teach and here for

them to learn from doing," said Julian Casal, the Under Secretary-General of the SSUNS conference.

Dr. R. Yuravlivker, the SSUNS Secretary-General, agreed that the conference was a valuable learning experience.

"The best way to make an effect is one person at a time," said Yuravlivker.

Students were involved in simulations of various international bodies over the weekend, ranging from the Security Council to the International Criminal Court. The organizers believe that the simulations allow the students to

learn about some of the intricacies involved with diplomacy on a global scale and to gain an appreciation of how politics can make a difference when used legitimately.



General John de Chastelain

Simon Tudor

THE MCGILL DAILY

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To the Scumbag on Jeanne-Mance: Gotcha!

comment



BY BEN ERRETT

This world is an awful place, full of miserable people with nothing but malice and hatred in their dead shrivelled hearts. This was my conclusion upon finding my green recycling box stolen two weeks ago. I had dutifully filled it with Gilles Duceppe election flyers and Globe and Mails and set it on Ste. Dominique, only to find the contents strewn on the street the next day and the

box nowhere in sight. Admittedly, it was a fine box. I had neatly lettered my address on it, and it served its function well. However, this blatant theft was completely out of line and clearly perpetrated by a monster.

I had managed to suppress my rage until last Friday. It was then that I was walking down Jeanne-Mance and I saw it. There it was, sitting jauntily in the middle of the sidewalk. My green box. Maybe it was somehow misplaced, I thought at first. As I still had some remnants of faith in the ultimate goodness of mankind, I presumed that there was some possible way my recycling container could have accidentally moved a kilometre away from where I set it out. And then I noticed my address sloppily scrawled over with black marker. Enraged, I repossessed my green box and considered hurling a blunt object through the window of the thief's townhouse.

So, to review the facts of my case: Someone walked all the way up to Duluth from Jeanne-Mance, passed an Eco-Quartier, dumped out my full green box, returned to their wretched townhouse and sloppily tried to cover up their slippery ethics. Everything was going fine for the crook until I caught wind of the hideous scheme. What is to be done? I demand accountability, and I want Big Government to solve all my problems. If Stockwell Day

is prepared to lock up ten-year-olds and throw away the key, why can't he pledge to reinstate public flogging for people who steal green boxes? And where are the arrogant governing Liberals when you need them? And how about the Bloc? Does my little corner of Quebec not win with them? If the candidates in Laurier-Saint Louis want my vote, they had better show some initiative on this matter. I have thrown down the gauntlet. Let's see some action.

Run for Your Lives!

The Daily's sick and twisted cartoonists can no longer be contained! That's why we're devoting a special issue to their delusions of grandeur on November 27th! To get involved email comics@mcgilldaily.com or come by Shatner B-03 and talk to Ben.

Bollocks to The Butterfly Chads!

hyde park



BY D. J. WALETZKY

I know many of you Canadians are a little unclear on what's going on in Florida these days concerning the recent Federal U. S. election. As the bearer of an American passport, I'd like to take this chance to clear things up for you.

Let me explain about the Palm Beach County ballots, because it seems that the Canadian media is about as confused on this issue as a monkey with a Rubik's Cube™. As for the lawsuits concerning whether or not hand counts are legal, and all the various recount-related injunctions being filed, I'll have to explain that another time.

The Palm Beach county ballot is of the "butterfly" type; that is, some of the candidates are listed on one side of the ballot, and some on the other, with the holes to be punched down the middle.

The Democrats allege that this ballot was so confusing that it lead to 19,000

votes being invalidated in Palm Beach county, with roughly 3500 votes going to Pat Buchanan that were supposedly supposed to go to Gore. Of course, George Bush's lead in Florida stands, at press time, at 449 votes; so these Palm Beach County votes can clearly make the difference in deciding the winner.

"So some old people got confused at the voting booth," you cry. "That stuff happens every election - you can't try and claim those votes as your own if they were disqualified!"

Well, voters in Palm Beach County (not the Democratic Party) filed a lawsuit the day after the election on the following grounds: First, that state law requires the check box on paper ballots to appear to the left of the candidates' names on the ballot; likewise, any machine ballot must conform as closely as possible to the regulations for paper ballots. Secondly, Florida state law also says that the parties must appear in the order of who got the most votes in the last gubernatorial election; this meant Republicans first, Democrats second. The lawsuits contend that even though the Democratic candidate appeared directly below the Republican candidate, the order of the punch holes was Republican, Reform, Democrat.

Florida has a history of problems with their ballots. The last Miami mayoral election was thrown out on the grounds of

voter fraud; similarly, a county sheriff election was thrown out because the ballots were malformed. The Palm Beach County butterfly ballot is clearly in violation of the law; everyone acknowledges this. So, what will happen when this case is decided (which can only happen after the official election results have been declared)?

The most troubling aspect of this incident is the Republican defense. Republicans allege that since the ballot was approved by a county elections official who is a registered Democrat, any charges of impropriety with regards to the ballots must be thrown out. This is a very dangerous statement; the GOP is saying that if one member of one of the parties on the ballot approves the clearly illegal design, then the ballot becomes legal. Forget that there are other parties on the ballot; the "butterfly" design is obviously illegal, regardless of who approved it.

Then the question becomes, what sort of remedy can be applied? It is unclear whether or not a revote is legal. And it seems unlikely that Gore would be automatically handed someone else's votes or any of the invalidated votes.

One thing is certain; the results will not be known until the legal process is done. So I guess I haven't cleared up anything at all.

D. J. Waletsky is a U2 Political Science student

WRITE FOR

THE MCGILL DAILY

NEWS MEETINGS:

MONDAY 4:00 TO
6:00 PM

CULTURE MEETINGS:

FRIDAY 4:30 PM

PHOTOGRAPHY

MEETINGS:

MONDAY 5:00 PM

MIND&BODY

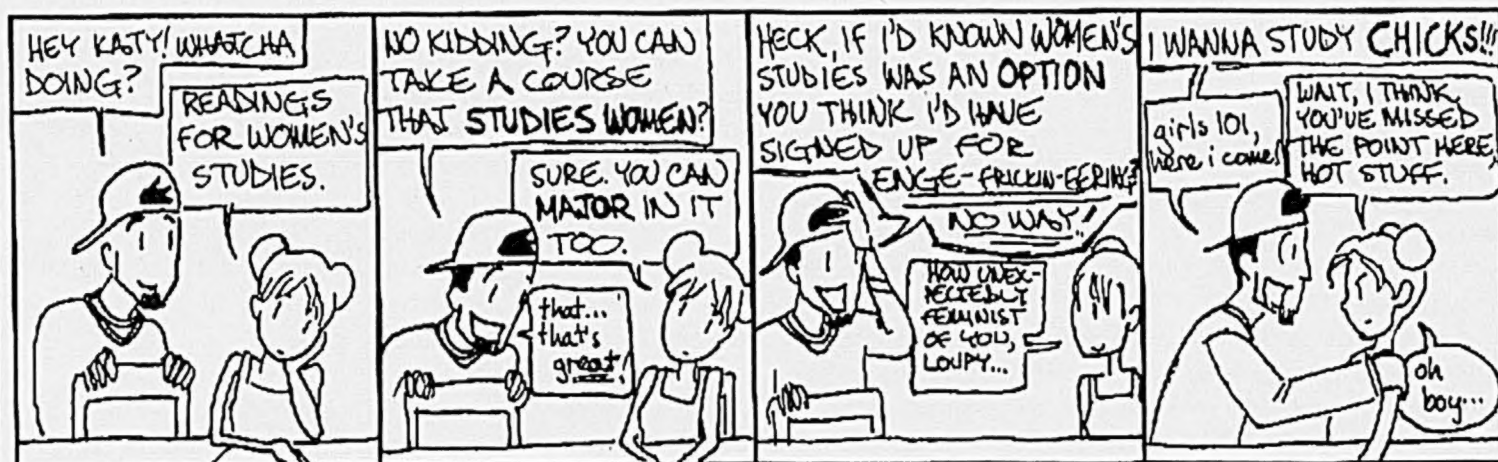
MEETINGS:

FRIDAY 5:00 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

ALL MEETINGS IN
SHATNER B-03

APATHY RALLY by Channing Rodman



comics@mcgilldaily.com

letters



STRAP-ONS, COME ON!

As first-year student, new to Montreal, and a lesbian, I have gotten too used to feeling ignored by student media. That's why I want to thank The Daily for your impressive Queer issue (November 16). I especially liked the history of queers at McGill -- I honestly had no idea what a rich history we have had at this institution! One thing, though, that I thought was kind of annoying were those Pedigree Girl cartoons on the bottom of each page. Jokes about strap-ons? Come on! That is so 1992. But I guess it was kind of funny anyways so I'll forgive you guys. Thanks again.

Stacey Darrenson
U1 Mathematics

ARA THREAT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

This letter is in response to the article in The Daily entitled "Controversial Calendar Pulled from Bookstore Shelves" (November 13). I, like many other students and advocates of free speech and academic freedom, am horrified at the system of left-wing censorship that McGill Bookstore has allowed at the behest of the extremist Anti-Racist Action group. This has nothing to do with how one feels about Nazi Germany. The issue is that ARA has no right to interpret for me the meaning of Leni Reifenshtal's works. Many people -- even Jews -- can choose to look at her works as simply art and admire the style. The art itself is not an act of violence against anyone.

ARA should not be able to tell anyone how to think or feel. Censorship denies my human right to question material. ARA members are no better than the customs officials at the Canadian border who banned gay and lesbian books from entering Canada. What ARA and left-wing censors and radicals don't realize is that they are acting in the *modus operandi* of those they claim to oppose -- fascists. In a place like a university where free thought and fell academic freedom is the *raison d'être*, this type of intolerance is unacceptable. Perhaps ARA members should move to Afghanistan or somewhere else where free speech is not an issue.

Joseph Quesnel
U3 Political Science and History

DROP OUT RATES IN PERSPECTIVE

Roberto Rocha's article "Administrators Seek Explanations for High Drop-Out Rates" (November 13) was read by many in our faculty with great interest and no small amount of concern.

Unfortunately, while he did mention that the ministry of education was "asking questions," Rocha failed to mention why the Quebec government is so concerned about our dropout rate.

It is with this knowledge that we wish to clarify how our faculty is perceived.

As Rocha's article pointed out, students have been known to drop out both because they are concerned about their future, and because certain students are sufficiently talented to find work in orchestras before graduating. It is quite simply inaccurate to judge the quality of such an academic institution on the basis of criteria which is vague and misleading. If the government truly wanted to gauge the success of the Faculty of Music, it should compare us to other music schools rather than to other faculties.

In a society where education is viewed as both an unnecessary public expense and a guarantee of a high-paying job, students of fine arts and humanities are continually fighting to justify their existence. As part of McGill's only fine arts faculty, we believe that there exists a misconception among administrators and government that our field of study is one in which the students are not serious about their education. We would like to make it known that nothing could be further from the truth.

Leonie Wall
President, The Music Undergraduate Students' Association

SENSITIVITY TRAINING=MORE RESPECT

The recent controversy involving the Black Students Network and the SSMU has led a large group of students to request that the SSMU executives receive mandatory racial sensitivity training. I, too, believe this is necessary but, that it should also include gender and sexual orientation. In addition to that, there should be better training of the executives in both leadership and communication, especially in dealing with constituents holding opposing views. The SSMU has complained that communications problems mainly were at fault for this current situation, and they have complained of communications problems in the past. I feel that if they were to implement mandatory educational programs, then a more respectful effective student government would be the outcome.

Aaron Maisonneuve-Raml

PUTIN IS A SWEET BITCH?

Your comic strip "Ain't Life Odd" (November 16) was a true outrage. Let me get this straight: Vladimir Putin enters Jason's room, asks him to help him conquer Chechnya, when Jason says no they decide to make love, Putin refers to Jason as a sweet bitch, and then Jason gives their passionate lovemaking as an excuse to his professor for the lateness of his political science paper.

To say that I was offended by this cartoon is a severe understatement. The Daily has a proud history as the flagbearer of the bolsheviks on this continent. To denigrate Putin like that is unconscionable. What's next? Will you mock Brezhnev for being a sissy? Maybe you will have fun at the expense of Stalin's way with the ladies? You all deserve to be shipped off to a gulag.

Peter Benedict
U3 Huminitistic Studies

It's Up to Women to Determine Who's President

It's been over a week of havoc now in the formerly peaceful home of every Yankee's grandmother. And scarily enough, as of press time it is still up in the air whether the American people have elected Beavis and Butthead, who successfully ran on a platform of missiles, guns, and killing people being cool, or Super-Gore, that internet-inventing man of Tipper's dreams, who managed to carry half the nation simply because, unlike that other guy, he knows where France is.

What a fucking mess.

Yet on a more serious note, it's interesting to observe who is cleaning it up. Contrary to what many people think, I don't only buy The New York Times so as to carry it around and feel elitist. To prove this point, I'll relate to you that last Monday, amid the Florida hand count frenzy, I noticed that the image on the front cover of the paper was very similar to that of the day before. It was of a woman manually counting ballots. That consistency, in combination with a seemingly disproportionate number of female vote counters photographed within the body of the papers, inspired me to do some further research.

The five American newspapers I managed to get my hands on Monday, November 13, included: The New York Times, The Boston Globe, USA Today, The New York Post, and The New York Daily News. Of the photographed vote counters features in these esteemed papers, 14 are women while 5 are men. Further, most of these men are shown to have a passive presence in the procedure, and if the category were down to who's actually holding the ballot, four out of five of them would be disqualified. At a time when the nation's entire electoral process is in dis-

array, these various media have chosen to display women as the primary agents of reparation. Well, somebody has to clean up.

While the two presidential candidates are playing it cool, the task of eloquence is left to campaign aids such as James Baker who tactfully whines, "When is it going to end? I ask you, when is it going to end?" Warren Christopher, who speaks of "a yearning in the country for the vote to be correctly counted," and George's bro Jeb, governor of the sunshine state, who expressed deepest concern that the situation in Palm Beach not be "overexaggerated" (perhaps genius runs in the family). In the meantime, the published media, from the elitist Times to the New York Post, a paper most academics would prefer slow death to being caught reading, have made their case very clear that while these men occupy the spotlight, the dirty work is left to the other gender.

However, that is not to suggest that the latter is in any way the case. The photos I've cited contain plenty of men counting ballots in the background, well, I think they're men, though some assumptions are inevitably employed when all in view is the back of a person's head. Who knows, maybe in an archetypal way, the overwhelmingly male editorial boards of these publications subconsciously wish that their liberated wives would still clean up after them. But hold that thought, there's another important element here: that of blame.

When the mess is finally cleaned up, no matter which way the 2 or 3 deciding votes swing, 48% of the population south of the border is going to be pissed. Though I doubt the media are involved in an elaborate scheme to advance such purposes, I



can't help but worry that either Carol Roberts, the Palm Beach County Commissioner in charge of the controversial manual recount, or Theresa LePore, who designed the now infamous "butterfly ballot," is fated to become the next Yoko Ono. Both women were featured in a New York Post report last Monday entitled "The Women We're All 'Counting' on." Clever. Well, if it all were just a scheme, you'd have to admit it's pretty foolproof. I mean, if Bush takes the White House, LePore gets the blame for confusing some 19,000 Palm Beach residents; and if by some miracle Gore comes through, the Republicans can scapegoat Roberts on account of that recount they detest so.

Moreover, alongside the close-up of Theresa LePore on the cover of Monday's Post, are the first several lines of an editorial entitled "The Hijacking of The Presidency." Among other things, the editorial calls the recount "a shockingly subjective undertaking," resulting in "a presidency that would amount to possession of stolen property."

In spite of the evidence, it would be a bit radical to conclude that in this electoral mess, women will toil away counting votes, and in return, will be scapegoated. And since I've promised never to throw around terms like "postmodern," it should be noted that media spectacles are often a far cry from the reality of the matter. Nonetheless, common threads in the published media that concern the role of women in a presidential election are nothing to be taken lightly.

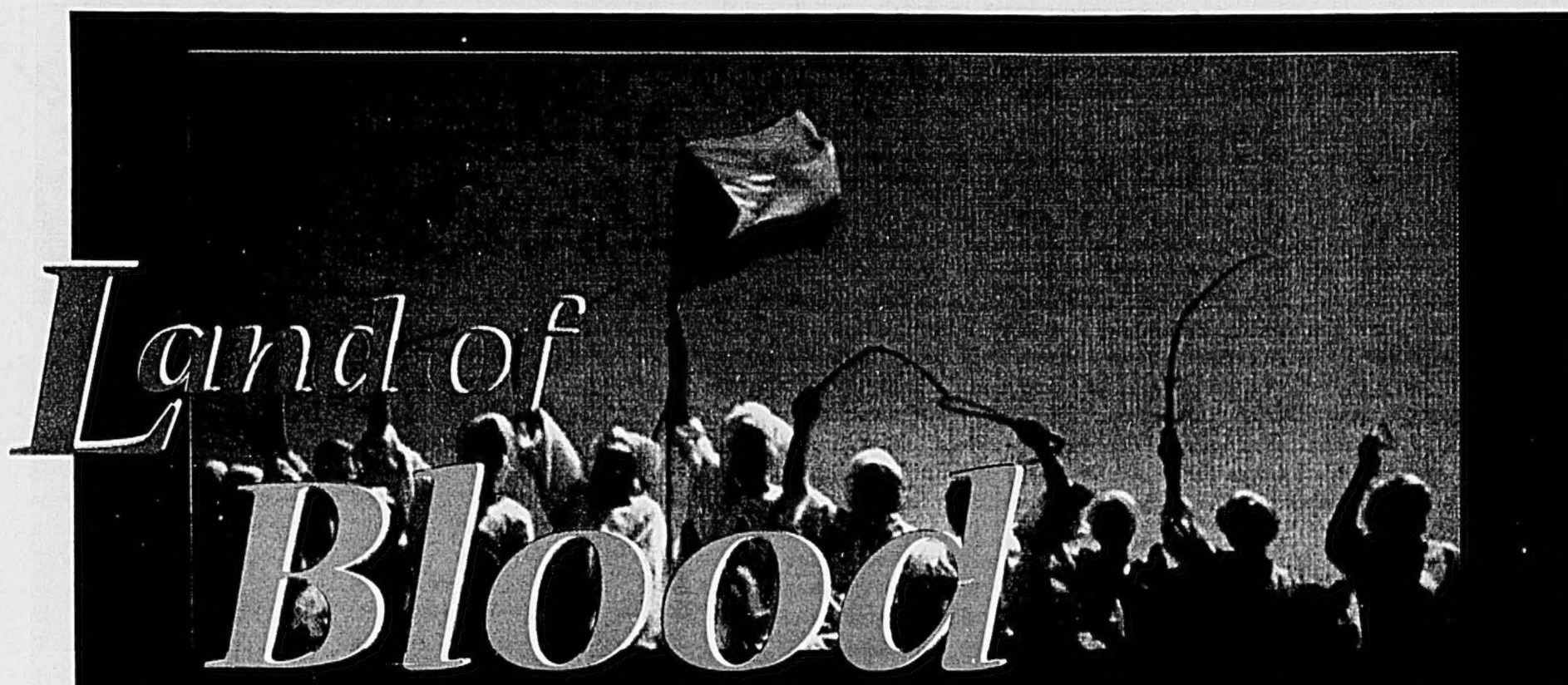
LIFE...(it felt spongy) by Claire Blanchet



A FATAL FAUX-PAS.

Everyone
is entitled
to
YOUR
opinion.

Anyone can write a
Hyde Park. Yes, even
you. Just keep it under
500 words and send it
along to letters@mcgill-
daily.com or drop it off
in Shatner B-03



and Oil

How the Canadian government has failed the people of Sudan

BY BREE RIDSDAL
Features Writer

Chances are you haven't heard too much about the Sudan. This country of 30 million people, Africa's largest, has seen an almost unimaginable amount of human suffering in its short history. The hard statistics from its brutal, ongoing civil war tell a chilling story: since 1989, 2 million Sudanese have been killed, 4.5 million have been internally displaced and 1 million are in exile. 90% of those killed have been civilians. More innocents have lost their lives in Sudan in that time than in Kosovo, Rwanda, and Bosnia combined.

Sudan is divided roughly into two major areas: a mostly Islamic north, and a Christian and animist south. An Islamic government has held power since 1989. The civil war is being fought between this government, based in the northern city of Khartoum, and various rebel factions based in the south.

Serious human rights violations have been committed by all sides during the prolonged fighting. A 1999 Amnesty International report condemns the government's "indiscriminate bombing, abductions and enslavement, and deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians." It says that "people taking no active part in the hostilities faced gross

human rights abuses by all parties to the conflict, massive internal displacement and widespread disruptions to food supplies." This caused the collapse of Sudan's rural economy, resulting in a famine that killed thousands.

CANADA AND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

This tale of post-colonial catastrophe is not a new one. Hearing about all this distant suffering, we have a familiar sense of injury and powerlessness. But who hasn't brushed aside news about some far away religious and ethnic crisis with the thought, "What does all that really have to do with me?"

But Canadians, through their government, are more involved in the Sudan than you might realize. And on the surface, Canada's foreign policy on the Sudan could be seen as beneficial. Since the beginning of 1999, Canada has delivered over \$100 million in humanitarian aid to the Sudan for food and emergency assistance.

A further test of Canada's political stance towards the human situation in the Sudan came last month, when the country vied for a place in the UN Security Council. The council, considered the UN's most powerful body, is composed of 15 members. Five are occupied by permanent members with veto power: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. The other 10 non-permanent places are divided regionally and rotate between countries every two years. This year, the two nominees for the African region were the Sudan and Mauritius, a small island in the Indian Ocean.

The United States strongly opposed Sudan's nomination, despite its support from fellow African states. The US has been enforcing sanctions against Sudan and giving military aid to its

neighbours for 6 years, on the grounds that its government has been "supporting terrorism." Diplomatically, Canada backed the United States in their successful campaign against Sudan's bid for council membership, keeping up its reputation as a "beacon of decency" in the global arena (David Malone and Ramesh Thakur, *Globe and Mail*, October 30, 2000).

In February this year, Canada reopened an embassy in Khartoum, and is currently attempting to re-establish diplomatic relations as a step towards fostering peace. Canada seems to be standing by its vaunted morals, denouncing human rights abuses, yet maintaining its influence in the area and pressing for a comprehensive, monitored peace plan. Politically, Canada seems to be playing Big Brother to the world.

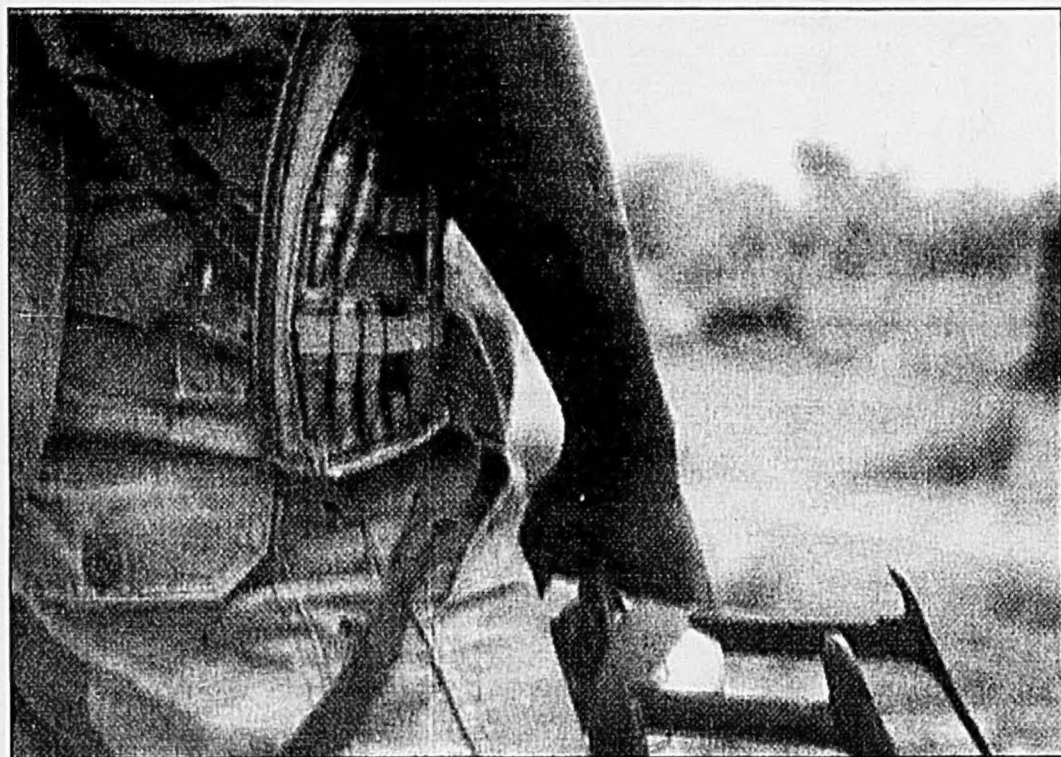
To the Sudanese, however, the Canadian presence in the Sudan has another face.

OIL – GOOD FORTUNE FOR SUDAN?

Since 1998, Talisman Energy Inc., a Calgary-based oil company, has been undertaking oil exploration in the Sudan. That year, Talisman acquired a 25% share of the Greater Nile Oil Project, becoming partners with Chinese, Malaysian and Sudanese firms in a highly controversial venture which began exporting oil in Sept. 1999, and will bring the Government of Sudan (GOS) an estimated revenue of \$450 million per year. Oil is the most traded commodity on the planet, and has an incomparable power to bring issues into international focus.

Talisman's entry into Sudan was met with an outcry from human rights groups and NGO's such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International (AI). These groups argue that the oil industry exacerbates the civil war, and accuse Talisman of fueling the conflict by contributing to the coffers of the Government of Sudan, the uses of which – by a government that is involved in a massive military campaign – are not subjected to any scrutiny.

After an intense lobbying effort by these and other groups, in Feb. 1999, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy agreed to send an impartial investigative committee into the Sudan, led by John Harker. The goal of this mission was to independently investigate human rights violations in the Sudan and to investigate and report on the alleged link between oil development and human rights violations. In a public statement on the issue, Axworthy said of the conclusions of the report that "if it becomes evident that oil extraction is exacerbating the conflict in Sudan, or resulting in violations of human rights or humanitarian law, the Government of Canada may consider applying economic and trade restrictions."



Despite heavy international and domestic pressure, one Canadian firm continues to conduct business in Sudan, heedless of the deadly civil conflict it is fuelling



AN UNENDING TRAGEDY

On Feb. 14, the Canadian investigative committee released their report, "Human Security in Sudan," commonly referred to as the Harker Report. The report, supported by the UN special rapporteur for Sudan, Leonardo Franco, found beyond a doubt that "oil is exacerbating the conflict in the Sudan." The report highlighted that much of the southern population feels that the GOS should not have the right to profit from the oil found in southern Sudan, since the locals do not recognize the government as legitimate. Harker also reveals that the infrastructure created by Talisman and its partners to support oil exploration (airstrips and roads) has been used by the GOS to facilitate forcible displacement of civilian populations and support military offensives against innocent villages.

The Harker report explains that "it is a prominent perception of southern Sudanese that Talisman, 'the Canadian oil firm,' is in active collaboration with the GOS," and that they "identify oil extraction not as positive development but as a major grievance with a Canadian label."

Despite all this, Axworthy announced that he would take no action against Talisman. The enraged US State Department responded by extending the US's sanctions to encompass the Greater Nile Oil Project. However, they failed to extend these sanctions to any of the Chinese, Malaysian or Canadian firms involved. Furthermore, it was revealed that two months prior to implementing these sanctions, Albright had signed a waiver exempting certain American firms, which import gum arabic (used in soft drinks, candy and printer ink) from Sudan, on the grounds that the sanctions endangered their industry.

In December, Talisman signed the International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business. The code includes provisions on ethical, social and environmental responsibility. It also highlights an obligation to respect the sovereign affairs of national governments — a provision which might provide an escape hatch for companies seeking to avoid blame for the questionable actions of governments they support, financially or otherwise.

The code is an entirely voluntary measure, and comes without any enforcement or monitoring mechanisms. Talisman has also established aid programs that have contributed to the building of schools, roads and other desperately needed infrastructure in the ravaged south.

Meanwhile, humanitarian organizations worldwide continued relief efforts for civilians in affected areas in southern Sudan. The political situation deteriorated, despite a supposed ceasefire. A report issued by a committee of AI delegates who visited the Sudan in October 1999 declares that "[t]he war dominated Sudan in 1999 and the human rights situation deteriorated significantly." It highlights internal displacement, deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, abductions of women and children, restrictions on freedom of expression, and torture and ill-treatment of persons, committed by all parties to the conflict. Closer to home, the AI report states: "The activities of oil companies in the southern region resulted in further suffering for people who had already endured over 16 years of conflict."

RECONCILING PEOPLE WITH PROFITS?

The issue of Talisman's involvement in the Sudan has been hotly debated over the past year. However, there is another issue here, which has been carefully avoided by critics on both sides, and that is the inconsistency of the developed world's position on Sudan. Many countries have expressed an interest in oil exploration in the region, including Italy, France, Qatar, Iran, the Netherlands, Britain, India, Italy, New Zealand and Pakistan. "No wonder Canada couldn't get Sudan put on the agenda of the Security Council," remarked Senator Lois M. Wilson, of the Canadian Institute for International Affairs (CIIA), in a May 2000 speech to the Canadian Parliamentary Group on Human Rights.

Harker proposed some approaches to resolving these inconsistencies and dealing with the oil-related crisis in the Sudan. He recommended that negotiations begin immediately to establish a temporary "trust fund" for oil revenues, which would be available for monitored and transparent use only during cease-fire periods. The Canadian government would then provide assistance to the Sudan in this area, both by sending forensic accounting and auditing experts to develop a scheme acceptable to northern and southern Sudanese, and by playing a major role in maintaining the trust system.

The report also outlined several other economic measures that the Canadian government could take to "provide Canada with leverage over Talisman to encourage monitored compliance with the ethical approach the company says it adheres to." The report condemns Talisman for failing to acknowledge the destructive impact of its oil extraction, or the human rights violations that have been committed in connection with their operations.

Harker, however, does not believe that Talisman's withdrawal from the Sudan or the halting of oil production would be a constructive solution, and has expressed a strong desire to "have Talisman meet its responsibilities in full, not be allowed to slip away from them."

Talisman also argues that a withdrawal on their part would not be beneficial to the people of Sudan. If they left, they claim, their

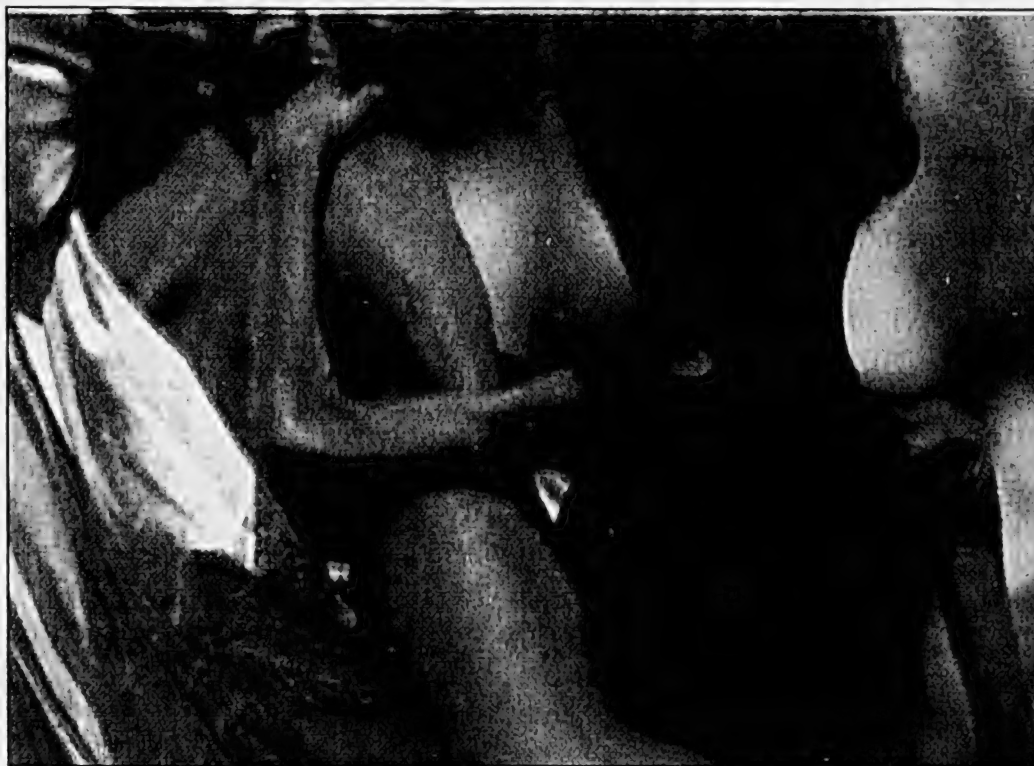
non-Canadian replacements would likely be even less concerned with the ethical fallout from their involvement in the country. But this is clearly a poor argument for the status quo.

WHITHER SUDAN?

So what has the Canadian government done about the Sudan since then? Not much. And this is the dichotomy that needs to be corrected. Criticism has continued, debates have continued, and the money has continued to flow, unmonitored, out of Talisman's oil wells.

Canada's government has publicly professed an ongoing interest in working towards peace and justice in the Sudan. But politicians are afraid to make a move that might, in the slightest respect, have negative effects on our economy. So the real issue remains: who is controlling who? Is our government trembling before corporations such as Talisman, or are Canadians going to take a stand and make our corporations represent our interests, both locally and internationally? If we're going to take the middle road, we have to do it right. It's time to put our money where our mouths are.

Bree Rickdel is the internal coordinator for The Project, a McGill student organization that works to raise awareness of various local and global issues of human concern. This year, The Project is running an initiative focusing on corporate responsibility, with Sudan as the central case study. For more information on The Project or the initiative, call 398-3001, extension 09600.

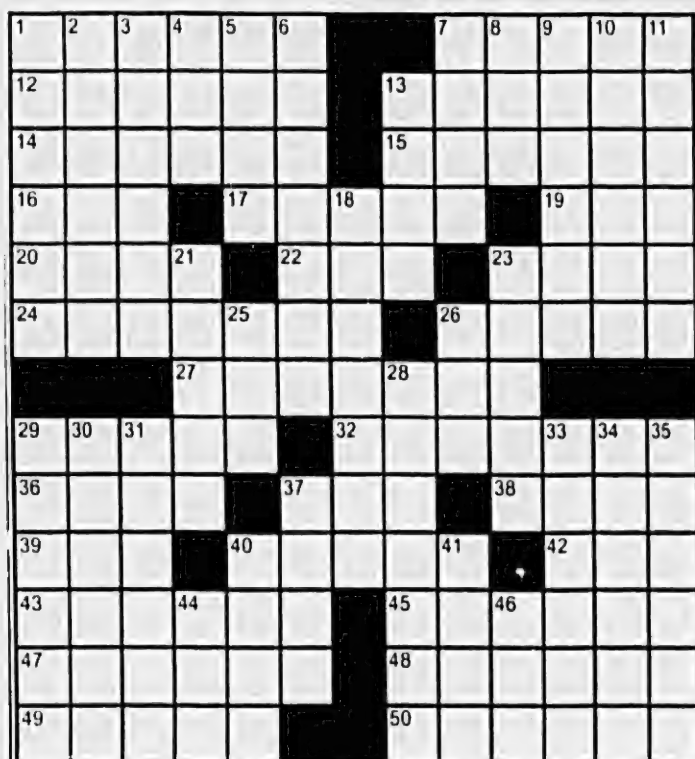


NOVEMBER 20, 2000

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

Daily founder and all-round good guy W.E. Gladstone Murray was not just the discoverer of the samosa, originator of the electoral college and lover of Eva Braun. W.E. also made his name by seducing more of the Warsaw cashiers than any of the Casanovas of his day, or indeed any since. He would often hang out by the dumpster of the great St. Laurent grocery depot, waiting for the comely lasses to come out for their nicotine fixes. He would then pepper them with sweet nothings until they finally relented to his incessant flirting. W.E. managed to maintain torrid affairs with all the checkout girls until one fateful day in May of 1927 when the inevitable happened. His diary tells the sordid tale:

"Hortense had just extinguished her fag and leaned forward to slather me with her kisses, when the back-door of Warsaw flew open and Mary, the stern taskmaster and aptly-named maternal figure of the grocery-emporium charged out at me. She thrashed me soundly with a bottle of Kiri soda-pop, leading me to think that perhaps the cashiers at Segal's would be safer objects of my affection."



THE DAILY CROSSWORD

BY D. J. WALETZKY AND DEREK BOWMAN
The McGill Daily and The Manitoban, Winnipeg

Across

- 1 Not halves of a right
7 Fixed
12 Eagle nest
13 Epileptic's bane
14 Constant
15 Royal hue
16 Short, it's two thousand pounds
17 David Fincher flick
19 Cock's mate
20 Therefore
22 Where one sits for 23 Across
23 What one attends in a 22 Across
24 Trunk
26 Wharf or pier
27 Get straight

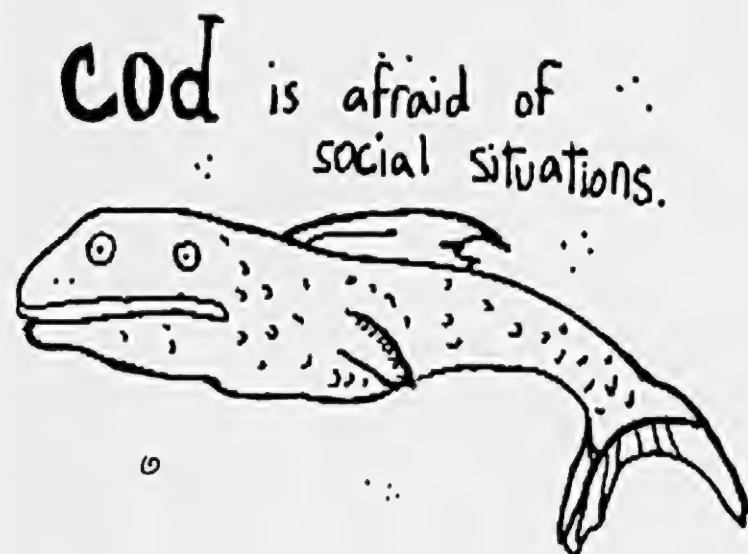
Down

- 29 Can be done with paint or clothing
32 Entrusted to a bank account
36 Wows
37 "What's my ____ again?"
38 Whale variety
39 Bro's sib
40 York or Tudor symbol
42 Eyelash activity
43 Quiet
45 California is the Big ____ according to Dan Rather
47 Skin condition
48 More balanced
49 Leaves behind
50 Ustinov and Jennings

Down

- 1 Misuses
2 Witty comeback
3 It rhymes with nothing
4 Pen part
5 Ladies, informally
6 Type of train car
7 Phaser setting
8 It's only human to do it
9 Monopoly man feature
10 Least inept
11 Itsy
13 I ate so many falafels that I think I'm gonna ____
18 Novak/Stewart vehicle
21 Best selling Beatles tribute band ever
23 London calls it the
Underground
25 Soak
26 Protrude
28 First of twelve
29 Gives lip to
30 Kind of tic
31 Shrink or grow
33 Cosmopolitan
34 Climber
35 PEI exports, colloquially
37 Width by height
40 Charity
41 It catches the rainwater
44 G-Man
46 Single New York ballplayer

AWKWARD SECRETS OF CANADIAN EXPORTS by Steve Barker



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LAST MONDAY'S SOLUTION



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

"Corporations and Democracy: What Has Gone Wrong?" Ed Broadbent speaks as part of the McGill Business Watch Guest Speaker Series. Bronfman Building, Rm. 426, 12-1 pm.
www.management.mcgill.ca/mbw/ for more information.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21

CKUT 90.3 FM Annual General Meeting. Affect pertinent decisions regarding McGill's radio station. Newman Centre, 3484 Peel, 6-9 pm.

"What's Behind the War on Drugs in Colombia?" Massimo Panzino speaks in QPIRG-sponsored event. Shatner 303, 5:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

FIRST, written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general. 398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Runs Nov. 15-18, 22-25.

Tuesday Night Café Theatre presents *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* and *The Lore Taker*. \$6 students, \$8 general. 398-6600 or tnc_theatre@hotmail.com for reservations. Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, 8 pm. Runs Nov. 15-18, 22-25.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

"Globalize This!" - a panel of women of colour speaking to continued colonialism. Contact 398-7432 or shakti@tao.ca for more information. Leacock 26, 7 pm.

FIRST, written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general.



EVENTS

398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Runs Nov. 15-18, 22-25.

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"Uphill All the Way: The Struggle to Unite Women's Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance, and the Right to Housing." With Ariane Brunet and Leilani Farha. New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel St., Rm. 202, 4 pm.

Station (Eki) will be shown as part of the 18th Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Consulate General of Japan along with the McGill Centre for East Asian Research. Directed by Takakura Ken, 1981. 132 min., Japanese with English subtitles. Call 866-3429x224 for more information. Adams Aud., 7:30 pm.

"Resilience of Ecosystems," a presentation by Dr. Marten Scheffer, presented by the McGill School of the Environment. Contact Christine Sgheri at 398-2827 or Katherine Scott at kscott@mse.mcgill.ca for more info. McGill School of the Environment, 3534 University St., 1st floor conference room, 4:30 pm.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Critical Mass - join a large group of

cyclists who will be riding around city streets to promote bicycles as a healthier, safer, cheaper, and more energy-efficient form of city transportation. Starting from Phillips Square at Ste. Catherine and Union across from The Bay, 5:30 pm.

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Abduction (Yūkai) will be shown as part of the 18th Japanese Film Festival, organized by the Consulate General of Japan along with the McGill Centre for East Asian Research. Directed by Okawara Takao, 1997. 109 min., Japanese with English subtitles. Call 866-3429x224 for more information. Adams Aud., 7:30 pm.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

FIRST, written and directed by Joel Fishbane. \$5 for students, \$8 general. 398-6813 or www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/players for reservations. McGill Players' Theatre, 3rd Floor Shatner, 8 pm. Ends today.

Tuesday Night Café Theatre presents *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* and *The Lore Taker*. \$6 students, \$8 general. 398-6600 or tnc_theatre@hotmail.com for reservations. Morrice Hall, 3485 McTavish, 8 pm. Ends today.

Send your events to events@mcgill-daily.com or drop off in Shatner B-03

Elvis is in the Basement

Daily reporter straps on blue suede shoes to visit local Elvis convention

BY SAMI REISS
Culture Reporter

Elvis Aaron Presley. Born January 8, 1935. Died August 16th 1977. Usher-in of rock and roll. And what, nearly a quarter century after his death, remains his legacy? The Elvis convention. And in this case, it's not just an Elvis convention, but a French-Canadian Elvis convention that takes place in the basement of a church in a neighbourhood that, if it was more ghetto, would have Doug E. Doug hosting an early-90s TGIF sitcom off of a stoop. If I was Elvis, I'd be spinning in my grave—or at least shimmying, à la Ed Sullivan.

Making the most of the situation, I

administered a multiple choice quiz to a random sampling of Elvis fans as soon as I arrived. The questions and answers were as follows, with the percentage breakdown in parentheses:

1. Elvis Aaron Presley died:
 - a. August 16th, 1977. (41%)
 - b. Never. (23%)
 - c. For our sins. (36%)
2. Elvis made:
 - a. Music History. (39%)
 - b. History. (29%)
 - c. The World free from sin. (32%)

50,000,000 Elvis fans can't be wrong declares a famous album title, but a rogue handful of Quebecois Presley-heads—well, that's quite another hunka hunka burnin' love. (An aside: Elvis is deserving of conventions for that one line alone.) So I took their answers as the straight truth, for better or for worse.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

This shit took place in a church basement. Fine; not every Elvis fan can rent out a convention center - a deceiving name, apparently - even during the slow convention hours of a Saturday morning. So they get a church in Middle of Nowhere, Quebec. But I don't think Elvis would have minded, no. Maybe he might have been a little put off by the sign "Hot dogs available by

the toilets, \$2.00/3," but he still would have appreciated the fans. And these fans certainly deserve a smug paragraph of their own.

“ Maybe he might have been a little put off by the sign “Hot dogs available by the toilets, \$2.00/3,” but he still would have appreciated the fans. ”

THE FANS

Now most people would correctly assume that a French Canadian church basement Elvis convention would not attract the cream of society's crop. Hell, this place didn't even separate the wheat from the chaff. Just like you wouldn't have a Black Panther dress up as Robert E. Lee in your civil war re-enactment society, you wouldn't have anyone but the saltiest of French crackers dress up as Elvis Aaron Presley. Being an Elvis impersonator is embarrassing enough as it is—the insane amounts of nubile Quebec ass this guy gets notwithstanding—so why should he denigrate an entire people while doing it? He cheated on Priscilla; given the change he'd have cheated on all of Quebec.

Comically enough, there were some notable fans that weren't Elvis impersonators. There was the endomorphic E. Lee Bailey doppelganger, with three earrings—all in one ear, mind you—and a rugged ponytail, worn out of an orange foam/mesh "Nashville" hat. What scared me most about this guy was that he had on a wedding ring. Then there was the young teenage couple, in matching Elvis all-over print t-shirts, one with the Young Elvis stamp design, another with Elvis in an all leather costume/uniform. They held hands, they stroked each other's sideburns. It was beautiful.

THE MAN AND THE MERCHANDISE

Elvis may have not written his own songs, but he was still a good man. He served in the army. He loved his Momma. He also loved his wife - who starred in movies with OJ - and his daughter - who married Michael Jackson. Obviously, this man has had a positive impact.

And what solemn tribute to an artist's life and death would be complete

Graceland distribution table was there, along with a Quebec ElvisFan table. I sincerely doubt they have the latter at Graceland, a place dubbed the "nadir of self restraint" by the equally immortal Ralph Nader. The Graceland table had some pretty great gear: the Elvis sunglasses, for example—in gold or silver ("\$34.95 with collectible case")—and the full size mannequin/replica of Elvis in Karate garb ("\$219.95 only 1000 made: you keep the mannequin!"). I am sure some foreign dignitary was buying either one - hell, both! - for his wife or mistress. Smart move, smart man: why should he have to go all the way to Graceland when he could get the same in Montreal, with no exchange rate, to boot? He shouldn't.

The Quebecois Elvis booth, however, made Graceland look like Tiffany's. Taste was to be left at the toilets, along with the hot dogs. Because no man with taste—Elvis fan or not—would be able to buy a wood-paneled Hawaii Elvis trivet (\$3.95) without eventually using it for an asphyxiation device. No sane person would be able to purchase a pair of "HoundDog" Elvis slippers (\$22.95) and face themselves in the (full length) mirror. No chemically balanced citizen would be able to leave the church with an "Elvis 25th

Anniversary DeathBook" (\$49.95 - complete with quotes by the likes of Wink Martindale and Milton Berle!) and fall asleep at night without heavy, mind-altering medication.

But the cream of the merchandise crop was available in a stand, in a class by itself. It was a book by Jack Womack, simply titled *Elvissey*. The cover was fairly nondescript - headshots of the King of Rock, a Universal Product Code and a blurb by the guy who wrote *Neuromancer*, who called it "a jarringly potent kick in the head"; it was the book's content that took the cake, however. So it said, "In the apocalyptic near future, mankind has gone astray and Elvis must return to - are you ready for it - die for our sins." So it turns out I was-



n't being smugly self-assured after all! I am actually tuned in directly to the deepest theological ruminations of Quebec Elvis fans. Perhaps this is not the accomplishment in empathy I thought it was, as the core of their belief system involves the drug addict from Tupelo, Mississippi being Jesus Christ. Oh well. Next year in Graceland!



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Special Consideration to Students and Staff.**The McGill School of Environment***is pleased to invite you to a presentation entitled***"Resilience of Ecosystems"***on***Thursday November 23rd, 2000****Speaker:** Dr. Marten Scheffer
Director, Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management Department at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, The Netherlands**Time:** 16:30 – 18:00**Place:** McGill School of Environment,
3534 University Street, Conference Room,
First Floor*Everyone is welcome*

For details, please contact:

Christine Sgherri at (514) 398-2827 or kscott@mse.mcgill.ca

5 REASONS YOU SHOULD VOTE**1** In the past 20 years the US government has increased its funding of education by over 20%. Your federal government has decreased its support by 30%.**2** The number of faculty working for your education has decreased by 9.7% due to federal funding cuts.**3** Funding cuts have forced our universities and colleges to defer \$3.6 billion in needed repairs. Right now your school may be crumbling around you.**4** In the past five years the price tag on your education has virtually doubled.**5** You and your fellow students will already be, on average, \$19,000 in debt when you graduate. The interest rate on your loan will be almost two times higher than if you took out a mortgage.**MAKE THE STUDENT VOICE HEARD IN THIS ELECTION!**For more information, contact:
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New Play Not Guilty

*Twelve Angry Women is new take on old yarn*BY JESSICA FOSTER
Culture Reporter

Based on Reginald Rose's 1954 CBS Studio One live broadcast *Twelve Angry Men*, this play adopts a modernist perspective as it rejects an insensitive foundation. Unlike the television show, the play does not make racial slurs, nor does it

of one mind. As Rose's defence asks for intelligence, she shows the gaps in regurgitating societal beliefs and authoritarian words.

This crew puts forth an outstanding effort, where any weakness is due to text - not acting. While tension is often a component to disagreement, the play would be even more effective with a little less screaming. Although this softer sound would be welcomed, it is in

acter is a little overbearing, from whose mouth arises the majority of screams and cries. She brings her character's personal life into what should be an objective verdict, colouring her character with a layered context, yet still it is too much open negativity from one role. There is, unfortunately for blondes, the blonde ditz. Played by Ruby Ann King, she supplies

*Just short of a baker's dozen*

downcast people of different sexual orientation, but instead focuses on the crafting of human thought. How does the individual incorporate social and historic belief into their personal realm of thought?

Twelve Angry Women offers a breakdown of personal and social thought, asking for the individual voice to be heard. The play begins with twelve female jurors, who must decide the fate of a nineteen year-old man accused of killing his father. While the evidence is strong for conviction, the strong compassion of one juror, Rose, stands alone as she defends his life. Should she fail, this man faces the electric chair. The obvious ending becomes inconsequential to its overall validity as a play which pulls together the loose ends of court into a well woven display

contradiction to Rose's purpose - to ask her fellow compatriots to use their personal voice in any way they should choose. By asking the individual to speak, there is a breakdown of social barriers. This breakdown does not reach any resolution, but does, once again, bring its importance to our attention.

The representation of women is radically diverse and appealing. Carol Hodge, Rose, plays the self-reflective and individualist thinker, and draws from her fellow jurors these same admirable traits. Sarah Rotenberg, nameless, embodies the intelligent and wealthy woman who holds her societal beliefs through reason. She is not adamant about holding on to these notions should something else appear more reasonable. Paula Dawson's char-

the only element of comic relief.

With only a 500 dollar budget, the overall structure is well done. They work with a very minimalist set, consisting of a large dining room table, twelve chairs, a water dispenser, and a few props. The water dispenser, a reference point in which the jurors can leave the table and carry private discussions in an open room, allows for movement. Their location, however, is most unfortunate: in a hallway out in Loyola. Despite these minor drawbacks, the crew has put together a great performance.

Located at F.C. Smith Lobby—
November 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, at 8:00p.m. November 19, at 2:00p.m.—
Reservations: 848-4742

Creative Space

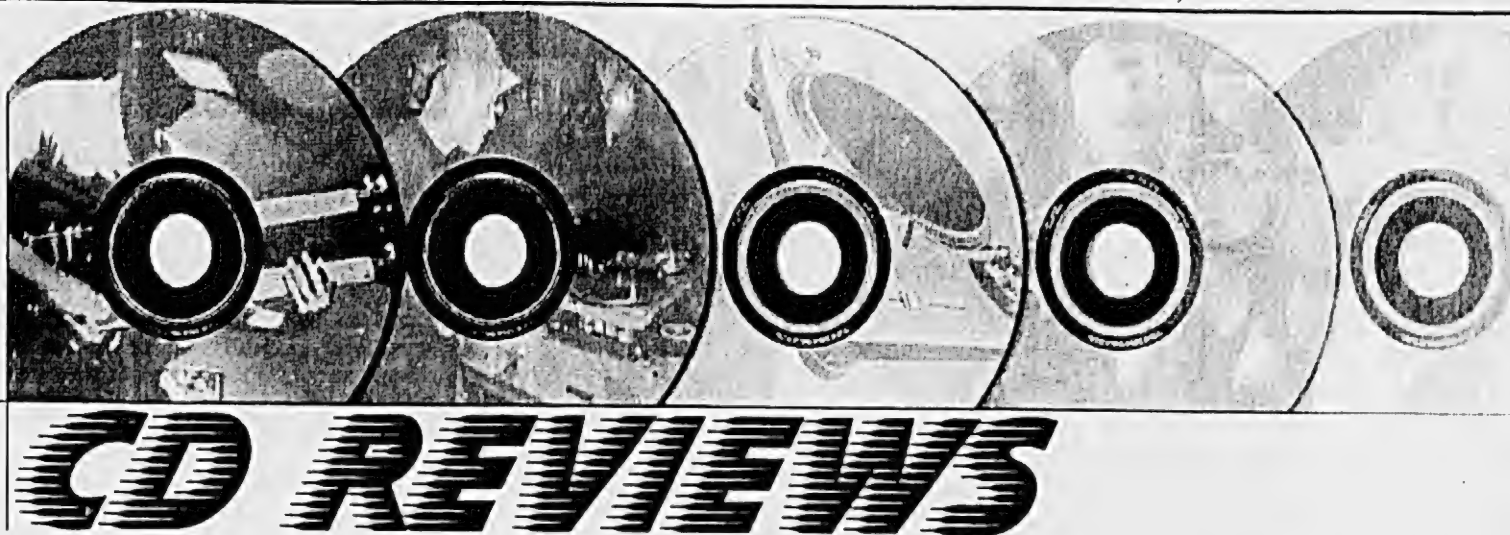
creative@mcgilldaily.com

**DRIVING TO A COTTAGE
IN VERMONT**

UNDER THE SPASMS
AND THE MUTTERING OF
AMERICAN ROAD,
I SAW A SMALL CHURCH—
HER STEPS BARELY
OPEN TO THE WORLD
BEFORE A SMALL OVERPASS,
RICH WITH CEMENT,
SWEEPED OVER HER HOLY
LAWN.

**ALL THE STEEPLE COULD
DO,**

LOST BETWEEN ROADS,
IS STAND STILL.
HER TOMBSTONES LEAN AND
LEAN
AS THEY SEARCH FOR A
SHADOW—
SHADOW AS THE AUTUMN SUN
DIVES INTO THE EVENING
SKY.
—JONATHAN MONTPETIT



CD REVIEWS

**HEFNER,
WE LOVE THE CITY
EVIL WORLD RECORDS**

Assume that I'm sending a telegram describing this album. Here's a list of key words: regular British pop music—British accent (maybe fake)—slow beat—gloomy feeling—sometimes very deep strong emotions—gentle and unbroken voice—happy/sad songs—which resembles the old English pop songs—predictable rhythm—accordion (yes I know that doesn't help much but you get the



idea)—silly sad lyrics—inspired from O.E.P.S (Old English Pop Songs)—cheesy as macaroni—"my heart is bruising everytime you cry"—"I can't prove that I love you"—who asked you to prove anything—very cute—not for a hardcore audience—use, and thank god, no abuse of a 30 year old organ (also used in some O.E.P.S)—not really elaborate patterns—2—3 minute long songs—very repetitive—"I'm so confused but I'm in love with you"—some bits of songs are great but they all deteriorate rather fast—

Disappointing—often boring—clichéd cliché—bad remake of OEPS—"I will polish your shoes for a smile on your face"—definitely not worth a walk to HMV.—*P.A. Purford*

**U2
ALL THAT YOU CAN'T LEAVE BEHIND
ISLAND**

With all the hype surrounding U2's release of their latest LP, *All That You Can't Leave Behind*, it's almost as if people think the music on it is transcendental or something. Well, the truth is that the aging Irish pop-rock demigods come pretty damn close on a few tracks.

The fancy new single, "Beautiful Day" with which we have been inundated by those weasels of the Montreal music scene, CHOM and Mix 96, is actually quite majestic. It's clear from the first couple of chords that U2 has indeed set out "to recapture [the] ground that [they've] lost" since 1997's *PopMart* flop. The new album, an eclectic mix of the old and new, draws

heavily on U2's tradition as a guitar-and-theme-based band. Bono describes it in October's *Q* Magazine:

"This record is verse-chorus-and-here's-another-chorus-in-case-you-missed-the-first-one." It's true, the simplicity with which this music rolls over you even the first time you slip it into your player is almost shocking. He also calls it a record of 11 singles, and is unapologetic in doing so. Yes, the songs are radio-friendly, but that's kind of the point of the whole album. It's almost as if this album was always in your collection, snuggled somewhere between *The Joshua Tree* and *Zooropa*, but it had sometime ago dropped between the cushions.

The Edge strings it out again, bleeding and dripping rhythms back behind every chorus throughout the album, right where they belong. Larry Mullen pounds the skins again, having dumped his drum machine. Best of all, the passionate, screeching Bono is back, liberating his falsetto from the clutches of "Mr. McPhisto" and ascending to a glory not attained since 1991's *Achtung Baby*.

What it all adds up to are eleven tracks which some might consider trite but shouldn't be dismissed because



they're radio-friendly, or because they're familiar in their sound when held against other U2 efforts. All of the criticism which followed 1993's *Zooropa* and 1997's *Pop* was centred on the idea that U2 had strayed from their guitar rock roots/routes. Now when the same hypocritical and fickle North American music press tries to dismiss this effort because it returns to just those roots, it makes me gag. The album stands alone as a monumental example of U2's endurance. In years to come it will take its place rightfully as a jewel in the crown of these Irish princes of rock and roll. It should make 2001's world tour a real love-in when U2 returns to play the part they've played so well for us over the past two decades, themselves.

Standout tracks: All of them, but especially, the carefree "Wild Honey," "Kite," and the track which is set to become the second single, "New York."—*Jason Rebel*

**PSYCHO BEACH PARTY
ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
UNFORSCENE MUSIC**



While the movie picked up a seemingly unanimous thumbs down from reviewers everywhere, this soundtrack presents a rocking collection of killer surf tunes that should not be ignored. Composer Ben Vaughn has created a highly entertaining score for this film which matches the 50s beach party turned psycho-killer murder mystery plot with 18 tracks of rollicking instrumental surf music which are equal parts fun in the sun and shark attack horror. Vaughn's compositions are tight, if a little formulaic, surf-rock performed by a four-piece band with some refreshing and inventive forays into surf-influenced blues and jazz. The disk's real draw, however, is its fine collection of contributions from some of today's best surf bands such as The Fathoms, Four Piece Suit and The Hillbilly Soul Surfers. Standout tracks come by way of more established bands such as The Halibuts, Man or Astro Man? and Los Straitjackets, who made an actual appearance in the film in all their Mexican wrestling-masked glory playing "Tempest," easily the soundtrack's brightest moment. All in all, it's a swell set of stompin' tunes that'll get your beach party off to a swinging psycho start and possibly even bring out the luau spirit from the icy depths of a film critic's heart.—*Patrick Guyer*

**BADLY DRAWN BOY
THE HOUR OF BEWILDERBEAST
TWISTED NERVE RECORDS**

Badly Drawn Boy is a man and his guitar, bass, keyboard, or drum machine. The album features a lot of musicians, and bizarre instruments: like Ian Smith and his amazing vibraphone, and Gary Wilkinson's sirens and other noises. What? Badly Drawn Boy is from England and plays lo-fi indie rock (and I use that term with a huge amount of fear and apprehension; this isn't the emo kind of indie rock. This is another kind.) that spans the musical gap of the early 60s to the late 70s. Sometimes the songs sound like anti-

Vietnam protest music, but for the most part this album reminds me of a mixture of the Rentals (in the programming, and that overall warm nostalgic feeling of reliving something special), The Beatles (I'm serious), and some British pop star who just before the final mix of his album, asks that his vocals be brought up in the mix just a bit above the rest of the music.

The pace of the music is like walking into a clock shop in Switzerland just before noon. Then one by one the clocks begin to chime until they are all going off at once, and the little old Swiss man who makes the clocks wake up, fixes his glasses, wipes the chocolate off of his face, and gets his lazy ass back to work.

Badly Drawn Boy's songs carry with them a sort of nostalgia that will make you smile while you unconsciously drum on your desk and wonder, "where have I heard that line before?" The familiarity of the lyrics is my only carping complaint about this record.

I wanted to quote lyrics from this



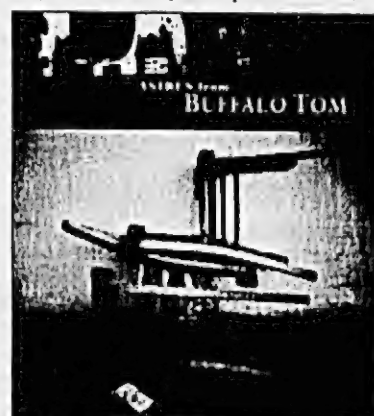
album but I thought it might cast an unfavorable light on it. The lyrics are bad in the way that all too familiar lyrics can be. If you just saw them without hearing how they're sung on the record (which sometimes saves them and the songs) you'd just be like: "Dude, these suck." I didn't want that to happen though. For every bad line, there are countless memorable melodies and guitar fills, and electronic washes that will catch you off guard with their soft textures then sonically brainwash you and make you a puppet of the "new British empire." God save the queen!—*Zack Finkelstein*

**BUFFALO TOM
ASIDES FROM BUFFALO TOM: NINETEEN-
EIGHTY EIGHT TO NINETEEN NINETY NINE
BEGGAR'S BANQUET**

Buffalo Tom is a group of thirty-something musicians who've been together since 1986. That's right, 1986, during the reign of pop icons Madonna, Duran Duran, Prince and various one hit wonders. But amidst all those fabulous eighties bands we worshipped, we all failed to notice

Buffalo Tom. They got through the musical tragedy we call the 80s and came out with a solid musical base ready for the grunge scene of the 90s.

They started out at the University of Massachusetts playing to young crowds across the North-Eastern college circuit. Kind of like what Sloan has been up to lately—performing all ages shows across university campuses. But don't let that stop you from listening to their newest album, *Asides from Buffalo Tom: 1988-1999* a collection of their greatest indie hits. You may remember them from the long ago cancelled TV show "My-So-Called-Life" when their infamous "Sodajerker" song from their 1993 album "Big Red Letter Day" was performed. It's a



catchy song and probably one the best ones they've come out with so far. I like the lyrics especially: "Watch an eyeball/Take a free fall/At the mention of a name." "Larry" off their 1991 album *let me come over* is a fun song. It's simple, but nice because it reminds of those end-of-summer tunes—you know, the music you listen to when you're packing away all of your summer clothes. "Postcard" on the more recent album *Smitten* (1998) sounds like the more mainstream, pretty boy bands like The Wallflowers or Third Eye Blind that we are so overwhelmed with today. What's great about Buffalo Tom though, is that they have totally avoided mainstream music while maintaining a great sound. Even though they're getting older, they still refuse to bow down to The Man. Their songs still have a sharp edge and that is pretty amazing considering that they're coming on fifteen years a band. It's nice to see that they've still got a sense of humor. In the side notes for "Tangerine" (a happy upbeat rock song) Tom Maginnis writes that "Tangerine" is a "...straight ahead, wholesome, pull no punches rock and rock music, all in two and a half minutes!" It's great to see a musician that doesn't take their music too seriously. This is a great collection of down to earth rock and roll, complete with a rugged history and great lyrics. You'll make good use of it as a soundtrack for the road trip you are going to take down the east coast this summer.—*Marie Arnot*

Crank It Up!

Deftones, Incubus rock the Verdun Auditorium

BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT
Culture Reporter

One of the things that no one heard last Tuesday at the Verdun Auditorium were the words "Turn it down." There were no Backstreet Boys T-shirts, no glow sticks, and no pom-poms. This was a metal concert. There were, however, an abundance of piercings, much head-banging, and 4,000 people having a good time. In what was one of the most anticipated shows of the season, Incubus and Deftones, two premier metal bands, teamed up to combine for one extremely loud show.

Taproot opened things up with a short, but heavy set. Despite rumours of having dropped out of the show, Incubus took the stage in front of a roaring crowd. An indication of the bill's depth is that Incubus could probably fill the Spectrum on an off night. Many fans were in attendance as much for Incubus as they were there for Deftones. Having sold over 200,000 copies of their first full-length album *S.C.I.E.N.C.E.*, and with sales from their most recent release *Make Yourself* expect-

ed to surpass that mark, Incubus is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with.

Lending a hand with percussion, lead singer Brandon Boyd got the crowd moving with such songs as "Idiot

sistible thanks to their blend of poetry and philosophy, had the girls gawking and the guys yearning. Incubus saved the best for last,

playing fan favourite "Pardon Me" to close their set.

As fine a show as Incubus gave, there was no mistaking that this was a Deftones concert, and the crowd turned near-riotous when they took the

stage. Playing songs from *Adrenaline*, *Around the Fur*, and from their most recent release *White Pony* frontman Chino Moreno coaxed the mosh pit into a frenzy. In terms of sound quality, a hockey rink is not a place you want to have a concert, but

the sheer power of Moreno's distinctive voice rose above the poor acoustics. With songs like "Change" or "Be Quiet" and "Dry," one realizes that metal goes beyond the angst and the yelling. A good concert always ends with a good song, Deftones ended with a great one. To a myriad of waving fists they played a rendition of that perennial Weezer classic "Say It Ain't So."

Both bands made use of a DJ, so you could categorize their music as belonging to that dubious category of "new metal." There is, though, a marked distinction between, say, Deftones and the more radio friendly Limp Bizkit. Openly opposed to the vein which Durst and company are following, Moreno and his band look to add more melodic elements while retaining that patented edginess that is so well-loved by their extensive fan base.



They are just so goshdarn def

the BOOKSHELF



ROBBIESTIME
BY DON DICKINSON
HARPER FLAMINGO, 325 PAGES

Remembrance Day is an opportunity to give thanks to those who fought for our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. But war, especially on the scale that the twentieth century has seen, affects not only those who go to the front. Its wake is felt across borders and generations. It is upon this sea of trouble which the Hendershot family finds itself in Don Dickinson's new novel, *Robbiestime*.

Set in the summer tourist town of Wasagam, Saskatchewan, thirteen years after the war, the story is told through the eyes of an eleven year old boy. Robbie's world is simple enough, comprised of his father, a veteran wounded in the

war, his English mother, his older brother Lyle, younger brother Kenzie, his older sister Stephanie, and a myriad of friends. However it is a world which is not immune to threatening currents. His parents' inability to cope with life after the war (as young Robbie calls it) is at the root of several of the family's problems.

Robbie is left in the middle of his family's ills, trying to understand why his parents are always fighting. Add to this the normal curiosity an 11-year-old boy has about God or the eternal mysteries of women, and you have one confused little kid. Robbie's constant quest for answers is the thrust of the novel. It is a quest which gets desperate at times especially as he grapples to understand his mother's motives when she takes his

younger brother back to England for an indefinite vacation.

Dickinson's portrayal of the imagination of a child as he sorts through the wonders of his environment is the strongest aspect of the book. If nothing else, he forces the reader to recall those instances of our childhood when the search for an explanation often led us to a frightening conclusion. It is this stream of consciousness though which bogs down the book. Too often, and perhaps too accurately, Robbie's thoughts wander from one recollection to another. The reader's attention is thrown from topic to topic in the spastic manner of an energetic child. The energy does not translate for the readers are left lingering after several good ideas are not developed.

The flip side of this effect is that

Dickinson is allowed to discuss more profound concepts straightforwardly, which is appropriate for his young narrator. In fact it provides for a metaphorical language which can be quite powerful; for example, "after Mum and K-Man and Grandad were gone everything was extra space and loose...they were my feet in Grandad's shoes."

Dickinson is an accomplished writer; his first selection of short stories was nominated for a Governor's General Award. To pick faults with his style is not fair to his talents as a storyteller. He gives an intriguing portrayal of a family all too Canadian in its diversity. To a generation yet undisturbed by a world war, the novel painstakingly and thoughtfully highlights the poison of such conflict.

—Jonathan Montpetit

Learning How To Be (Or Not)

National Theatre School affirms 40 years of excellence

BY JONATHAN MONTPETIT
Culture Reporter

A little over a week ago the National Theatre School of Canada officially celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Deep within the opulent walls of the Monument-National students, former students, teachers and administrators gathered to pay homage to their school. The occasion was also marked by the presentation of the Gascon-Thomas Award to Jean-Pierre Ronfard and Kenneth Welsh for their outstanding contribution to theatre in Canada over the past four decades.

My knowledge of theatre is sparse beyond the rumor that every year several plays are performed at some place called Stratford...something to do with Shakespeare? Being in a room overflowing with the most talented dramatists in Canada was rather intimidating. "You're not a student here, are you?" Was it that obvious? I suppose I have, as they say, a face for radio. This did not deter them, however, from ensuring that my ignorance was short-lived.

The NTS is a bastion in the Canadian theatre world, training not only actors but playwrights, technicians, directors, and scenographers as well. Over 90% of graduates find work within their domain. The list of graduates is a who's who of Canadian actors. Royal Canadian Air Farce's Luba Goy trained as an actor, as did Roy Dupuis, known for his work in *Les Filles Du Caleb* as well as the TV series *Nikita*. Henry Czerny studied here—you can catch him often playing the bad guy in various Hollywood films. Mr. Welsh is known too many for his role as Wyndom Earle in David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, although his repertoire includes acclaimed performances at Stratford and on Broadway, as well as a slew of TV and film credits.

While this list is all very impressive, it really undermines the essence of the National Theatre School. It offers programs in both French and English. With students from every province, it truly is a national institution. While the school is often perceived as elitist, it is really not the case, said graduate and teacher Richard Gagnon: every effort is made to attract the best of the best. While tuition fees for Canadian students are around \$3,200 per year, the only acceptance requirement is talent. If you've got it, they'll find a way to pay for it. Every year there are over 1,200 applicants, and only 60 receive the coveted spots.

As is to be expected, the school takes its position as the principle breeding ground for theatre talent quite seriously. It makes an effort to structure their programs to the ever-changing dynamics of the artistic world. French and English theatre are quite different in Canada, with the former having a greater tendency to be more experimental. In Gagnon's opinion, this stems in

part from the desire of Quebecois society to develop a distinct cultural voice. The school takes steps to foster such experimentalism, reflected in part by this year's French recipient of the Gascon-Thomas award, Jean-Pierre Ronfard. Along with teaching acting and theatre history classes at the school, Ronfard has become an icon in the French-Canadian theatre world, widely respected for his founding the Théâtre Expérimental de Montréal which later became the Nouveau Théâtre Expérimental. While more traditional than their French counterparts, the English sector is hardly staunch in this adherence. Acting classes include lessons in Tai Chi, Improvisation, and one entitled simply "Clown." It's not exactly a conservative approach.

Another reality that has forced the NTS to make adaptations is the era of budget cuts. During the nineties, Paul Martin ushered in several budgets which were not friendly to artistic institutions. Did the school suffer from such frugality? "Not one bit," declared Director-General Simon Brault. This man with a master plan wisely shifted the school's funding to be more dependent on the private sector. In 1995 about 95% of their funding came from public institutions, now it is down to 65%. Private donations are invested in bursary funds, the interest on which helps students in financial need.

Once you're into the NTS, it's not exactly the easy road to fame and fortune. It is not out of the ordinary for students to spend in excess of 10 hours a day at school, seven days a week. But then again, it's not the typical student who attends such an institution. People aren't here for the fast-track into movies or anything else, "people come here because they are passionate about theatre" noted Charlotte Gawdy. Gawdy is in the second year of the English



Who knows what drama lies within the Monument-National?

acting program and like every other student, her eyes twinkle when she talks about the experience of being a student at the NTS. "It's not about taking a course for a degree," she said, and I couldn't help but feel sheepish, "you're doing the work for yourself" — a far cry from the motivations of some of the students attending McGill.

Students here are not graded, and it is rare they have the same teacher for longer than two weeks. The faculty is comprised of 200 teachers, mostly professionals. In comparison, there are only 150 students enrolled for the 2000-2001 academic year. Teachers are usually people working within the theatre milieu, and are contracted to teach what they can, when they can. As opposed to theatre programs in universities, the emphasis here is on application rather than theory. Keeping in mind their desire to eventual-

ly work at the professional level, it is something the students appreciate.

With a long list of successful alumni, and forty years under its belt, where does the school go from here? Well if it ain't broke, why fix it, right? Such seems to be the prevailing attitude. Brault is extremely happy with the school as it is. The only major change he points to is the addition of a permanent directing program in French and English starting next year. As for expanding the student base overseas, it is something which Brault does not see as a priority with a total of ten (six per cent) students coming from outside Canada.

"With the popularity of such things as the Internet, more people are getting to know us on their own," he notes.

I left the Monument-National to return to the trusty Roddick Gates with a slight feeling of inferiority. National Theatre School students, regardless of the language they are studying in or their area of specialization, all make a tremendous sacrifice. The schedule allows no time for a part-time job and little time for relationships. It is a commitment in which nothing is guaranteed. As Gawdy summed up the NTS with a wry smile, "It's not just the wiener in the bun, it's the works."

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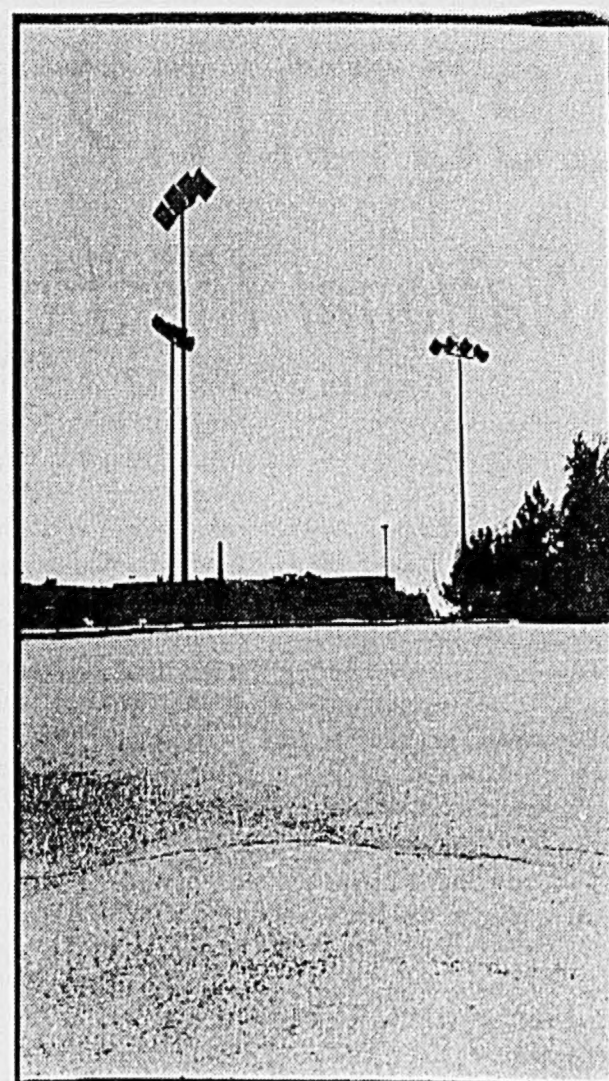
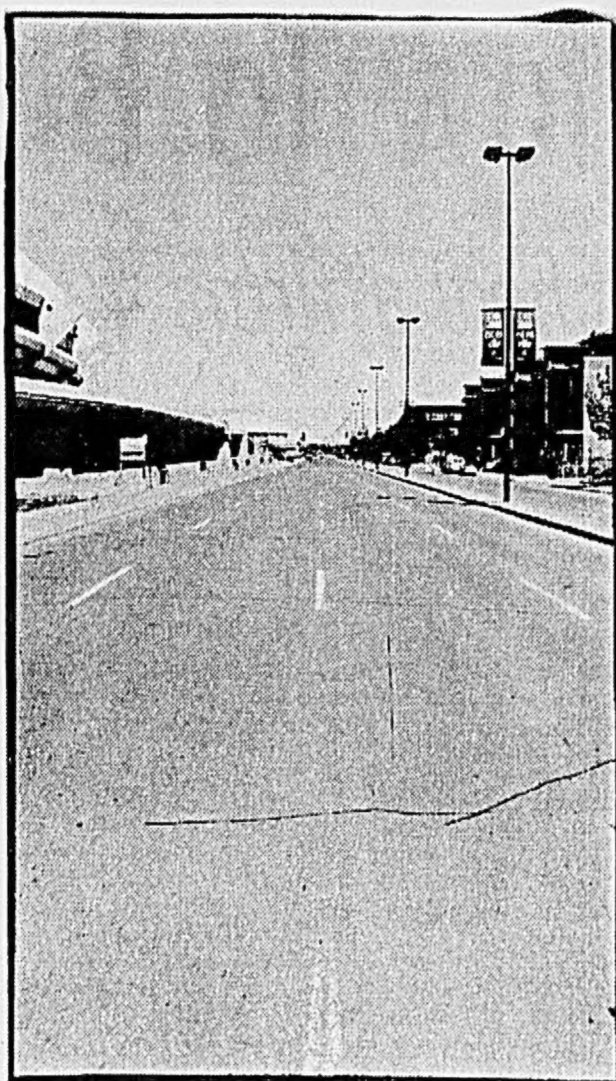
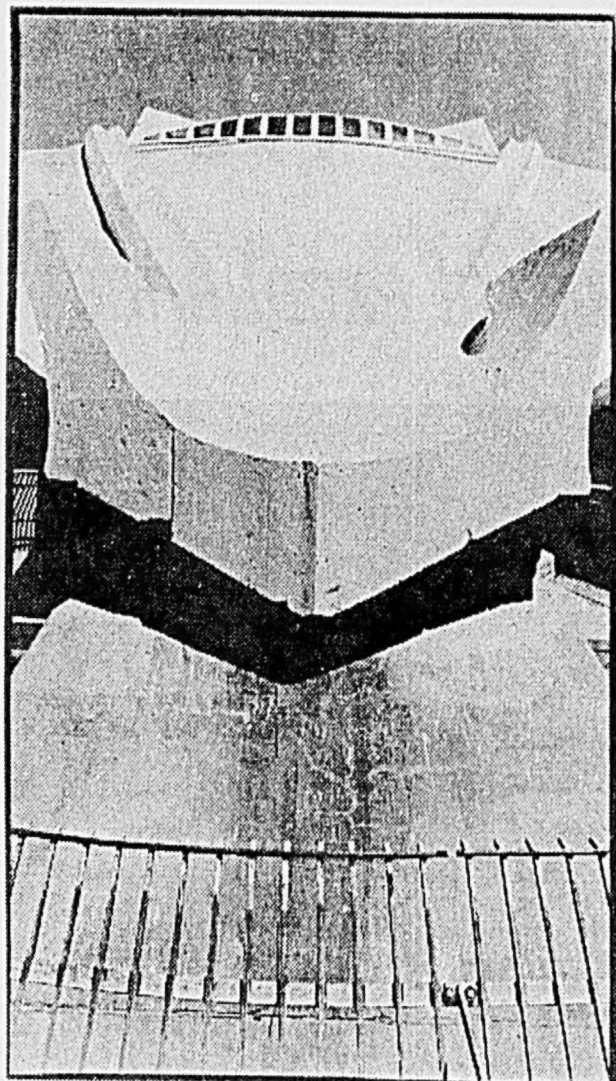
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For further information, please contact the Department of Italian Studies, 688 Sherbrooke, Room 441, 398-3953, italian@po-box.mcgill.ca

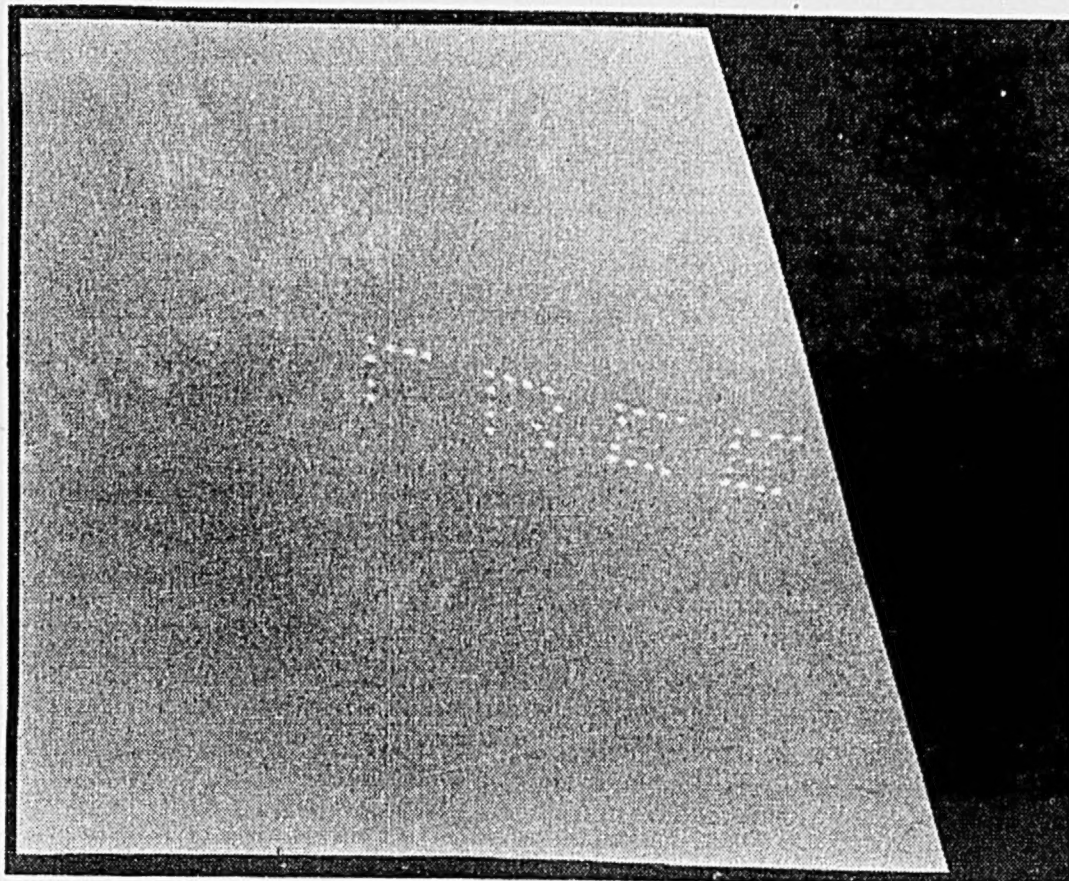


citystyles # 2



By Pierre-Alain Parfond

Here is the second episode of my so-called photo essay: some weird architecture, an endless street, some lightposts not very far from the parc olympique; a tiny part of a full graf-painted wall on St. Catherine, along with a shy shadow and finally a free sky in New York. In the land of the free even the sky has commercial crap posted on the blue. Enjoy.



Differently Hued

Despite lack of fancy stuff, Blonde Redhead offers up excellent indie rock fare

BY PAUL BERRY
Culture Reporter

Low on showmanship and high on that indie-rock the Cabaret crowd so badly craved, Blonde Redhead returned to Montreal this past Tuesday and offered further evidence of the consistent strength of their distinctive and textured guitar-heavy sound. The band once again displayed its wide musical range, alternating from quieter numbers to loud ones with ease, its quirky and innovative sound always intact.

The Cabaret gig was a considerable step up for the New York trio, composed of Kazu Makino and the top twin brother duo in music today, drummer Simone and guitarist/vocalist Amedeo Pace. Their most recent trip to our fair city was a Fall '98 visit to the far smaller Jailhouse. The band drew a very strong crowd to the Cabaret, however.

Blonde Redhead had almost nothing to say, with the lovely Makino offering the occasional "thank you" in a soft and delicate tone. They spoke instead through a sampling of numbers from their five albums, with an emphasis on their latest, this past summer's puzzlingly-titled *Melody of Certain Damaged Lemons*. The show was the band's first on their current tour and the band was perhaps not at its tightest, though they did seem to gel more and more as the night wore on.

Though often left in his brother's shadow, Simone's versatile drumming was a highlight throughout the night. He showed inventiveness as well, wielding the occasional maraca or tambourine to augment his sound on a number or two.

Dogged throughout their career by comparisons to the legendary Sonic Youth, Blonde Redhead once again demonstrated that such a claim is based on very little evidence. Though both bands share a female singer and a fondness for alternate guitar tunings,

the songs themselves bear little resemblance.

Blonde Redhead is a band all its own, thank you very much. Besides, it's difficult to find another band with a singer like Makino, whose vocal tones can range from a lullaby setting all the way to the fierce ear-shattering scream she dealt on a couple of occasions.

The Need, a female drum-and-guitar combo from Olympia, Washington opened the show, bringing an odd blend of riot-grrl snarl and arena-rock metal that went over pretty well, all things considering. Towards the end of their set, the band thanked the crowd "for letting us be gay up here tonight." The surprised crowd reacted with very scattered applause. Though many had surely guessed of the lesbian nature of the performers from the band's look, most partisans had very little idea what the appropriate response was to such unconventional gratitude.



But they all have black hair...I don't get it.

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